3rd ODI: India hope to avoid series defeat

Pressure on youngsters to perform against South Africa

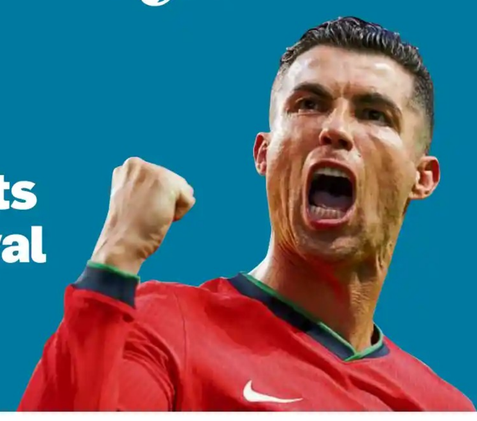
P15

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Cristiano Ronaldo invests in ChatGPT-rival Perplexity



P11

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

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US will expand travel ban to more than 30 countries: Noem

WASHINGTON, AP: The Trump administration will be expanding its ban on travel for citizens of certain countries to more than 30, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said, in the latest restriction to come since a man from Afghanistan was accused of shooting two National Guard members.

The expansion would build on a travel ban already announced in June by the Republican administration, which barred travel to the US for citizens from 12 countries and restricted access to the US for people from seven others. In a social media post earlier this week, Noem had suggested more countries would be included.

Noem, who spoke late Thursday in an interview with Fox News Channel host Laura Ingraham, would not provide further details, saying President Donald Trump was considering which countries would be included.

In the wake of the National Guard shooting, the administration already ratcheted up restrictions on the 19 countries included in the initial travel ban, which include Afghanistan, Somalia, Iran and Haiti, among others.

Trump security strategy criticises European allies as weak

Reasserts America's dominance in the Western Hemisphere

WASHINGTON, AP

President Donald Trump's administration set forth a new national security strategy that paints European allies as weak and aims to reassert America's dominance in the Western Hemisphere.

The document released Friday by the White House is sure to roil long-standing US allies in Europe for its scathing critiques of their migration and free speech policies, suggesting they face the "prospect of civilisational erasure" and raising doubts about their long-term reliability as American partners.

It reinforces, in sometimes chilly and bellicose terms, Trump's "America First" philosophy, which favours nonintervention overseas, questions decades of strategic relationships and prioritises US interests above all.

The US strategy "is motivated above all by what works for America — or, in two words, 'America First,'" the document said.

US President Donald Trump. AFP FILE

This is the first national security strategy, a document the administration is required by law to release, since the Republican president's return to office in January. It is a stark break from the course set by Democratic President Joe Biden's administration, which sought to reinvigorate alliances after many were rattled in Trump's first term and to check a more assertive Russia.

The United States is seeking to broker an end Russia's nearly 4-year war in Ukraine, a goal that the national security strategy says is in America's vital interests. But the document makes clear the US wants to improve its relationship with Russia after years of Moscow being treated as a global pariah and that ending that war is a core US interest in order to "reestablish strategic stability with Russia."

The document also is critical of America's European allies. They have found themselves sometimes at odds this year with Trump's shifting approaches to the Russia-Ukraine war, and are facing domestic economic challenges as well an existential crisis, according to the US.

Economic stagnation in Europe "is eclipsed by the real and more stark prospect of civilisational erasure," the strategy document said.

STARK SHIFT

- US suggests that Europe is being enfeebled by its immigration policies, declining birthrates, censorship of free speech and suppression of political opposition.
- Document released by White House on Friday-makes clear the US wants to improve its relationship with Russia

The US suggests that Europe is being enfeebled by its immigration policies, declining birthrates, "censorship of free speech and suppression of political opposition" and a "loss of national identities and self-confidence."

"Should present trends continue, the continent will be unrecognizable in 20 years or less. As such, it is far from obvious whether certain European countries will have economies and militaries strong enough to remain reliable allies," the document said. "Many of these nations are currently doubling down on their present path. We want Europe to remain European, to regain its civilisational self-confidence."

'US must continue to improve ties with India'

NEW YORK, PTI: The US must continue to improve commercial and other relations with India to encourage New Delhi to contribute to Indo-Pacific security, including through continued cooperation within the Quad grouping, the Trump administration has said.

The 'National Security Strategy of the United States of America' released by the Trump administration late on Thursday describes and builds upon the "extraordinary strides" America has made.

The document also stressed on strong cooperation with India to address the security challenge in the South China Sea.

The National Security Strategy stresses that the US "must continue to improve commercial (and other) relations with India to encourage New Delhi to contribute to Indo-Pacific security, including through continued quadrilateral cooperation with Australia, Japan, and the US," the grouping known as Quad.

Hindu schoolgirls allegedly pressured to convert in Pak

KARACHI, PTI: Some Hindu girl students in Pakistan's Sindh province have allegedly been told to convert to Islam to continue their studies, prompting the government to order an inquiry, an official said on Friday.

In late November, parents of some Hindu girl students at the Government High School in Mirpur Sakro in Sindh told the media that the school's headmistress had allegedly asked the Hindu students to convert to Islam to continue their education.

It sparked outrage as the parents alleged that the Hindu students were being forced to recite the Kalma and being mocked for their faith.

The parents also claimed some students were sent home after refusing to convert to Islam or reciting the Kalma.

Minister of State for Religious Affairs Kheeso Mal Kheal Das told the Senate on Thursday that the provincial education minister had ordered an inquiry into the matter.

A spokesperson for the Sindh Minister for Education Syed Sardar Ali Shah confirmed a committee had been formed to visit Mirpur Sakro and unearth the truth.

"The committee members have already recorded statements from the affected students, their parents, the headmistress, and other teachers," he said on Friday. He said no one is allowed to use coercion or threats to force conversion.

Sindh, which has the highest population of Hindus in Pakistan, , is already dealing with frequent cases of abduction of young Hindu girls.

EU hits X with $140-mn fine

Risks a fresh clash with Trump administration

BRUSSELS, AFP

The European Union hit Elon Musk's X with a 120-million-euro ($140-million) fine Friday for breaking its digital rules, in a move that risks a fresh clash with US President Donald Trump's administration.

The high-profile probe into the social media platform was seen as a test of the bloc's resolve to police Big Tech -- and Vice President JD Vance fired a bullish warning against "attacking" US firms through "censorship" before the penalty was even made public. Imposing the first-ever fine under its powerful Digital Services Act (DSA) on content, the EU said it was hitting X for non-compliance with transparency rules including through the "deceptive design" of its blue checkmark.

"This decision is about the transparency of X" and "nothing to do with censorship," the bloc's tech chief Henna Virkkunen told reporters as it was announced -- pushing back at Vance's charge.

The US vice president warned the EU pre-emptively Thursday it "should be supporting free speech not attacking American firms over garbage" -- in an X post to which Musk replied "Much appreciated."

Meta partners with news outlets to expand AI content

Meta announced on Friday it will integrate content from major news organizations into its artificial intelligence assistant to provide Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp users with real-time information, reports AFP.
The social media giant said Meta AI will offer breaking news, entertainment and lifestyle stories when users ask news-related questions, drawing from partnerships with outlets including CNN, Fox News, Le Monde, People and USA Today.
The feature will allow users to access "more diverse content sources" and receive links to partner websites to dive deeper into stories, Meta said in a blog post.

Rubio slams EU

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday slammed the European Union for handing Elon Musk's X social media platform a 120-million-euro fine for breaking its digital rules.

"The European Commission's $140 million fine isn't just an attack on X, it's an attack on all American tech platforms and the American people by foreign governments," Rubio posted on X. "The days of censoring Americans online are over."

'Putin warrant won't disappear even if peace talks are successful'

THE HAGUE(NETHERLANDS), AP: The deputy prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) said Friday that the court's investigation into the invasion of Ukraine cannot be halted by peace talks but could be deferred by the UN Security Council.

"If we have an ongoing investigation, then we will follow our own regulatory framework," deputy prosecutor Nazhat Shameem Khan told The Associated Press.

Khan said that attempts to bring justice should go hand-in-hand with peace efforts. "There must be the possibility of accountability in order for peace to be enduring, to be sustainable," she said.

Chinese media spotlights Putin calling India, China Russia's closest friends

BEIJING, PTI

Chinese official media on Friday highlighted President Vladimir Putin's remarks calling both India and China the closest friends of Russia while emphasising that Moscow has "no right" to interfere in their bilateral ties.

China, a close ally of Russia, is yet to officially comment on Putin's visit to India, while keeping a close watch on the outcome.

While Putin's visit to India is largely ignored by the official media, which focused more on French President Emmanuel Macron's current visit to Beijing, state-run Global Times, however, carried a report on Putin's remarks on how he viewed Russia's relations with India and China.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin during a meeting, in New Delhi. PTI

The daily, which is part of the ruling Chinese Communist Party's official publications, quoted Putin's remark to India Today stating that "India and China are our closest friends - we treasure that relationship deeply."

But at the same time, it highlighted Putin's guarded comment that despite sharing close ties with India and China, Russia has "no right" to interfere in their bilateral ties.

"We know this very well — India and China are our closest friends. We treasure that relationship deeply, and I do not believe we have the right to interfere in your bilateral relations," the daily quoted Putin as saying in the interview.

Quoting a report by Russian news agency TASS, the daily's report said Putin expressed confidence that Indian and Chinese leaders are committed to finding solutions to all intergovernmental issues, including the most sensitive ones.

He cited their wisdom as the key factor enabling the two countries to reach agreements. "At the same time, Russia does not feel entitled to intervene, because these are your bilateral affairs."

Not all babies need hepatitis B shot at birth: US vaccine advisers

NEW YORK, AP: A federal vaccine advisory committee voted on Friday to end the longstanding recommendation that all US babies get the hepatitis B vaccine on the day they're born.

A loud chorus of medical and public health leaders decried the actions of the panel, whose current members were all appointed by US Health Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr — a leading anti-vaccine activist before this year becoming the nation's top health official.

"This is the group that can't shoot straight," said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University vaccine expert who for decades has been involved with ACIP and its workgroups.

For decades, the government has advised that all babies be vaccinated against the liver infection right after birth. The shots are widely considered to be a public health success for preventing thousands of illnesses.

But Kennedy's Advisory Committee on Immunisation Practices decided to recommend the birth dose only for babies whose mothers test positive, and in cases where the mom wasn't tested.

For other babies, it will be up to the parents and their doctors to decide if a birth dose is appropriate. The committee voted to suggest that when a family decides not to get a birth dose, then the vaccination series should begin when the child is 2 months old.

Taiwan says China deploys warships in 'military operations'

TAIPEI, AFP: Taiwan said on Friday that China had deployed warships for "military operations" stretching hundreds of kilometres from the Yellow Sea to the South China Sea, posing a "threat" to the region.

Beijing, which claims self-ruled Taiwan as part of its territory, neither confirmed nor denied the manoeuvres.

Taiwan's defence ministry and other security agencies were monitoring China's activities and had a "complete grasp of the situation", presidential office spokeswoman Karen Kuo told reporters.

She did not say how many Chinese ships were involved in the deployment, but a security source told AFP the number was "significant". The source spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media.

The operations were not limited to the Taiwan Strait, but extended from the southern Yellow Sea, to the East China Sea near the disputed Diaoyu Islands and on into the South China Sea and even the Western Pacific, Kuo said.

"This indeed poses a threat and impact on the Indo-Pacific and the entire region," she said.

UK sanctions British Sikh bizman, group over pro-Khalistan terrorism in India

LONDON, PTI

The UK government has announced sanctions against a British Sikh businessman and a group associated with him in the first use of the country's 'Domestic Counter-Terrorism Regime' to disrupt funding for the pro-Khalistan militant group Babbar Khalsa.

Gurpreet Singh Rehal, linked with the Panjab Warriors sports investment firm, faces an asset freeze and director disqualification as he is suspected of belonging to organisations involved in terrorism in India, the UK's Treasury department said on Thursday.

Alongside, it also announced an asset freeze against "Babbar Akali Lehar" for promoting and supporting the same terrorist group."We will not stand by while terrorists exploit Britain's financial system," said Lucy Rigby, Economic Secretary to the Treasury.

"This landmark action shows we are prepared to use every tool at our disposal to choke off funding for terrorism – wherever it occurs and whoever is responsible. The UK stands firmly with peaceful communities against those who promote violence and hatred," she said.

His Majesty's (HM) Treasury said it assesses Rehal to be involved in Babbar Khalsa and Babbar Akali Lehar's terrorist activities, including promoting and encouraging, carrying out recruitment activities for, providing financial services to, as well as supporting and assisting those organisations, including through purchasing weapons and other military material.

"HM Treasury also assesses that Babbar Akali Lehar is associated with, and involved in, Babbar Khalsa's terrorist activities by promoting, encouraging hiring activities for group and itself," the department states.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

French President Emmanuel Macron (2nd R), his wife Brigitte Macron (R), Chinese President Xi Jinping (2nd L) and his wife Peng Liyuan (L) visit the Dujiangyan site, a designated UNESCO World Heritage site, in Dujiangyan, in southwestern China's Sichuan province on Friday. AFP

Air ambulance delays B'desh ex-PM Zia's departure to London

▸ The scheduled departure of critically ill former Bangladesh prime minister Khaleda Zia for London for advance treatment has been deferred to Sunday as an air ambulance offered by Qatar could not reach Dhaka, a senior leader of her party said on Friday, reports PTI from Dhaka.

The 80-year-old head of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), who was hospitalised on November 23, was originally scheduled to leave for London late on Thursday night or early Friday.

"If everything goes well, it (the air ambulance) may arrive tomorrow (Saturday) and if madam's health permits travel and her medical board gives its approval, then, InshaAllah (God willing), she will fly out on the 7th (Sunday)," BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said.

Khaleda Zia.

According to a statement issued by Zia's media cell, Alamgir said due to technical flaws, the special aircraft provided by Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani could not reach Dhaka as scheduled on Thursday but "it would expectedly reach Dhaka on Saturday."

Fresh landslide warnings in Lanka

▸ Heavy rains triggered fresh landslide warnings in Sri Lanka's worst-affected central hills on Friday, as the death toll from last week's Cyclone Ditwah neared 500, reports AFP from Colombo.

The National Building Research Organisation (NBRO), which monitors the stability of mountain slopes, said heavy rainfall within 24 hours could further saturate the hills and make them unstable.

"Since rainfall within the past 24 hours has exceeded 150 millimetres, if the rains continue, evacuate to a safe location to avoid the risk of landslides," the NBRO said in a statement.

The latest deluge was brought on by the onset of the northeast monsoon, though some of the earlier flooding that began last week has started to subside.

The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said 486 people had been confirmed dead and another 341 were still unaccounted for.

The number of people in state-run refugee camps has dropped to 170,000 from a peak of 225,000 as floodwaters receded in and around the capital, Colombo.

US President Donald Trump receives the FIFA Peace Prize from FIFA President Gianni Infantino(R) during the draw for the 2026 FIFA Football World Cup taking place in the US, Canada and Mexico, at the Kennedy Center, in Washington, DC, on Friday. AFP

Trump escalates war on media

▸ President Donald Trump's White House is taking on the role of media critic and asking for help from "everyday Americans", reports AP from New York

The White House launched a web portal it says will spotlight bias on the part of news outlets, targeting the Boston Globe, CBS News, The Independent and The Washington Post in its first two "media offenders of the week."

It's the latest wrinkle in the fight against what Trump, back in his first term, labelled "fake news." The Republican president has taken outlets like CBS News and The Wall Street Journal to court over their coverage, is fighting The Associated Press in court over media access and has moved to dismantle government-run outlets like Voice of America.

Trump has also engaged in personal attacks, last month alone saying "quiet, piggy," to a female reporter who was questioning him on Air Force One, calling a reporter from The New York Times "ugly, both inside and out" and publicly telling an ABC News journalist she was "a terrible reporter."

Riot police officers use tear gas to disperse farmers blocking the road leading to the airport with their tractors during a protest over the reduced and delayed payment of European Union subsidies, in Thessaloniki on Friday. AFP

Bengaluru Saturday, December 6, 2025 Pages 30 Vol 78 No 336 ₹8

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DH on Saturday

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WHACKY VERSE

Sanchar Saw Thee

Is the department of sanchar
Waging a sly espionage war?
If you have any doubt
You can sure find out--
Try their app: your door's ajar.

India in junior World Cup hockey semifinals

P16

When Ramanagara became Ramgad

Sholay, the iconic 1975 Hindi film set in the fictional village of Ramgad, is marking its golden jubilee this year. Ramanagara, then a sleepy village, provided the spectacular backdrop for the hit. *DH* visited the locations, about an hour's drive from Bengaluru, and met people who watched the making of the film.

The SATURDAY STORY

Full story, Page 13

RBI cuts interest rates; EMIs may fall

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday lowered key policy interest rates by 25 basis points that may make home, auto and other loans cheaper and boost consumption as inflation has eased to decadal low.

The repo rate has been cut from 5.50% to 5.25%. Other policy rates have also been adjusted accordingly.

Details on Page 11

National Herald case: DKS gets notice

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Delhi police have issued a notice to Karnataka Deputy CM D K Shivakumar seeking financial and transactional details as part of its probe into the National Herald case, an official said on Friday. The notice states that Shivakumar is "supposed to be having vital information" pertaining to the case.

Details on Page 5

Netflix to buy Warner Bros for $72 bn

NEW YORK, AFP: Streaming giant Netflix said on Friday it will buy film and television studio Warner Bros Discovery for nearly $72 billion, the entertainment industry's biggest consolidation deal this decade. The acquisition gives Netflix access to a vast film catalogue as well as the streaming service HBO Max.

Details on Page 11

Relief for IndiGo as DGCA relaxes pilot rule

Panel to probe chaos; 1,000 flights cancelled on Friday; ops could stabilise in 10 days

NEW DELHI, DHNS

IndiGo was on Friday granted a one-time exemption from some of the new rules regarding duty hours of airline crew till February 10, "solely to facilitate operational stabilisation", as the services of the country's biggest airline were thrown into disarray for the fourth consecutive day with more than 1,000 flight cancellations.

The airline has said operations are expected to normalise in the next 10 days.

An official statement by Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu earlier in the day had said the new Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) norms "have been placed in abeyance with immediate effect".

While this gave an impression that the exemption was applicable to all airlines, an updated press statement from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) referred only to specific norms applicable to IndiGo as officials maintained that there is no relaxation for others.

The minister's statement had not been withdrawn from the PIB website till the time of going to press.

The updated statement said IndiGo pilots who are deployed elsewhere, including with the DGCA, or are in refresher course could be used for duty till February. The 12 pilots deployed with the DGCA could be used for initial 7-10 days, it said.

The DGCA also eased night duty regulations and allowed substitution of leaves with a weekly rest period. It said the exemption to IndiGo in no way amounted to dilution of safety requirements.

▸ IndiGo, Page 3D

Stranded passengers at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) amid flight disruptions, in Bengaluru, on Friday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Govt steps in to ease crisis

- IndiGo gets one-time exemption from specific FDTL norms
- DGCA says this is only for operational stabilisation
- Claims it 'in no way amounts to dilution of safety'
- Pilots deployed elsewhere or are in refresher course could be used for flying
- Easing of night duty regulations
- No exemption to other airlines

Clueless passengers swarm KIA terminal

Frustrated and clueless passengers swarmed Terminal 1 of Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport on Friday. IndiGo cancelled all flights from Bengaluru to Delhi and Mumbai until midnight. Page 3D

DH DECIPHERS

Grounded giant: Inside IndiGo's crew crunch

Page 10

Airfares skyrocket as crisis deepens, **Page 11**

Russia vows steady supply of fuel to India

Modi-Putin summit charts roadmap to boost trade ties

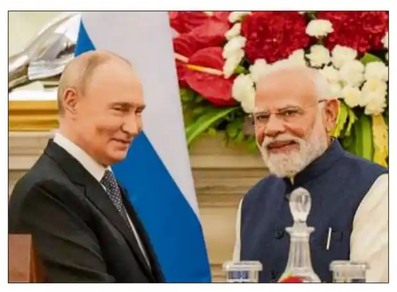
ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Moscow will ensure "uninterrupted fuel supply" to India, President Vladimir Putin told Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, even as US President Donald Trump had claimed success in persuading New Delhi to slash oil imports from Russia.

Modi and Putin agreed on a "Programme for the Development of Strategic Areas of Economic Cooperation till 2030" – signalling the intent of New Delhi and Moscow to boost two-way trade and investment over the next five years, even as India drew flak from the United States and the West for continuing to do business with Russia despite its war with Ukraine.

▸ Russia, Page 3D

JV for military items, Page 9



PM Narendra Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Delhi. PTI

Major MoUs

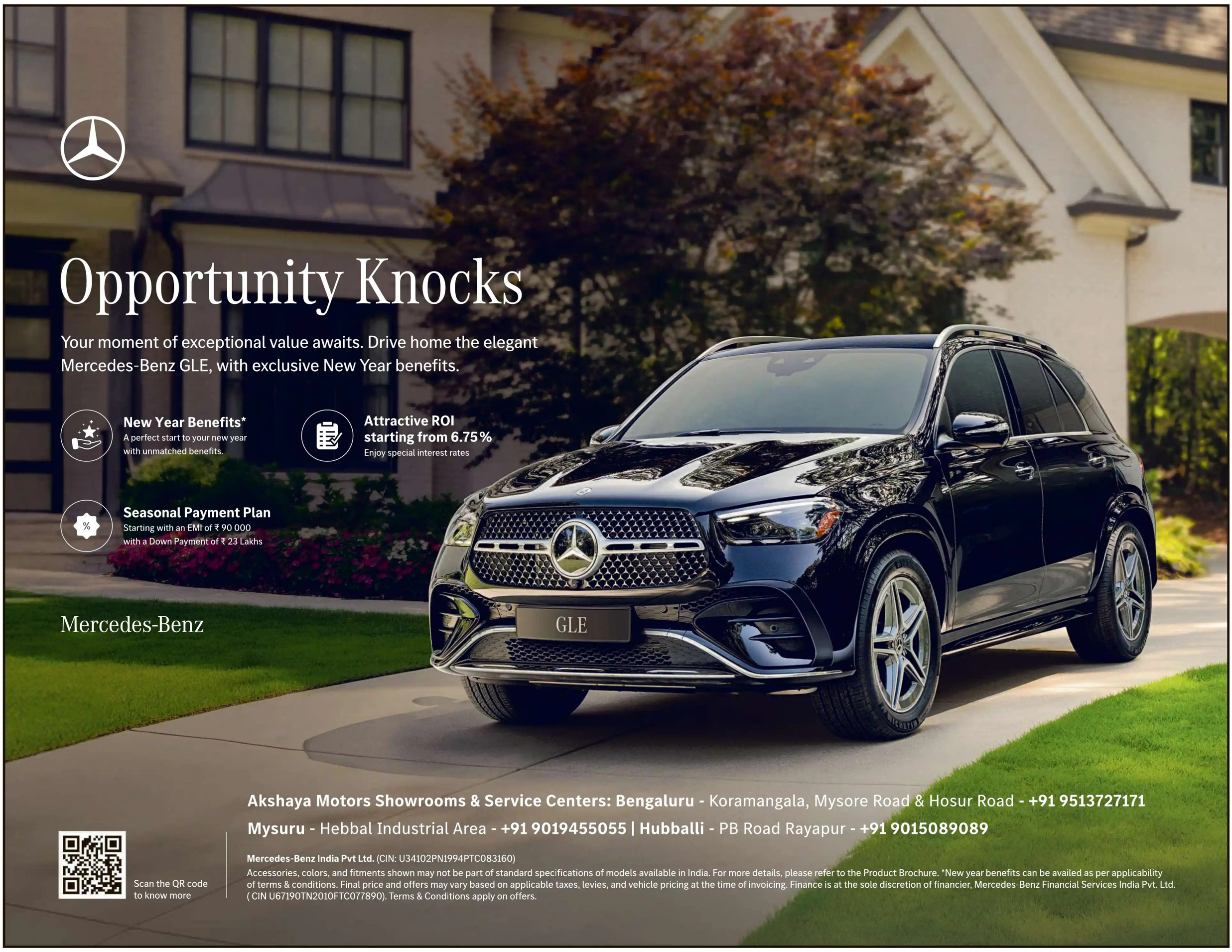
- Jointly develop systems of bilateral settlements through the use of national currencies
- Curb irregular migration and enable Indians and Russians to engage in temporary labour activity
- Facilitate training of Indian seafarers in polar waters
- Support growing e-commerce between India and Russia
- Develop and extend scientific, academic collaboration

Engineer jumps onto Metro tracks, dies

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 38-year-old engineer died after allegedly jumping onto the tracks at the Kengeri metro station on Friday morning, briefly disrupting train services on the Purple Line and reigniting concerns about commuter safety. This was the third suicide in the history of Namma Metro. Page 2

Cops to probe Aryan Khan for pub gesture

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Police have taken up a suo motu case over an allegedly obscene gesture made by Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan at a pub in the city last week. The 28-year-old filmmaker allegedly showed the middle finger towards women during a public event. Page 2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SAVING BANNERGHATTA NATIONAL PARK

When protection rollbacks endanger forest

SHREE D N
BENGALURU, DHNS

A reduced buffer zone is already threatening the forest. Is it wise to build flyovers through it and an airport close to it?

In 2016, Sidda, an injured elephant, died near Manchanabele dam in the southwest outskirts of Bengaluru, after a sepsis in its feet and a prolonged battle for its life. The painful death drew attention from people and wildlife enthusiasts.

Kiran Urs, a wildlife enthusiast, began probing the reason for the pachyderm straying near the dam. "Once upon a time, elephants used to travel from the Bannerghatta area towards Jnanabharati. They would play in the Vrushabhavati water and move towards Savandurga. Today, all the routes have been blocked with layouts and constructions, leaving no corridor for elephants," he explains.

He started focusing on the Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) area. This forest area is the most neglected and suffering forest in Karnataka. Being close to Bengaluru is its biggest curse. Resorts and farmhouses mushroomed, with encroachment often taking a toll on the forest land," he rues.

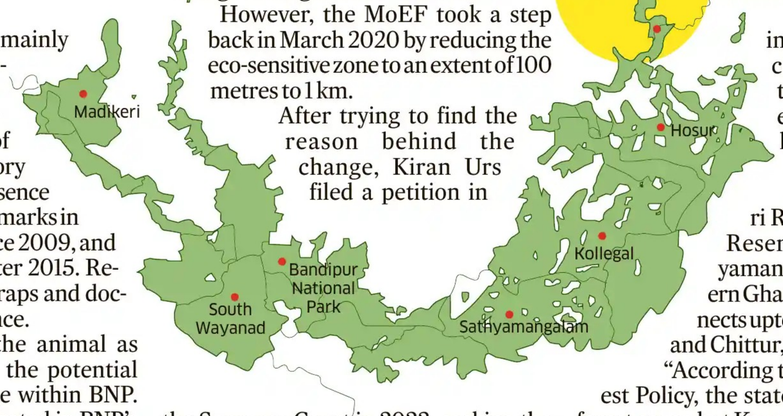
A home for tigers

Though the BNP area is mainly known as a home to elephants, tigers also inhabit the park. A 2024 study published in the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society found that tiger presence was detected through pug marks in the National Park area since 2009, and became more frequent after 2015. Researchers set up camera traps and documented the tiger's presence.

The study identified the animal as a young male tiger with the potential to establish a home range within BNP. With movements concentrated in BNP's northern region, the tiger moved beyond protected area limits. Another aim of the study was to "document baseline behaviours that could assist in protecting the tiger, particularly in relation to its proximity to human habitation and the occurrence of domestic kills," the study says.

Even forest department officials say there are two tigers in the park, documented through camera traps.

"I have seen it in 2024. The animal strayed from the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary and came to the Bannerghatta area.



It means the BNP area is capable of housing the tiger and needs the highest level of protection," Urs adds.

The flipflop

The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) was trying to do the same when it notified eco-sensitive zones around BNP, totalling about 268 sq sqkm, with a range of 100 metres to 4.5 kms, covering 77 villages and 17 hamlets.

However, the MoEF took a step back in March 2020 by reducing the eco-sensitive zone to an extent of 100 metres to 1 km.

After trying to find the reason behind the change, Kiran Urs filed a petition in the Supreme Court in 2023, seeking the rationale. The court referred it to the Central Empowered Committee, constituted by the MoEF, which addresses only forest-related issues. The Committee shared it with the state government, and the case is still languishing with no resolution.

Illegal constructions and quarries were common problems along the borders of the protected area. The modified range of the protected zone can easily allow non-eco-sensitive activities, even within 100 metres, where permitted.

"This can hamper the movement of animals. This wildlife corridor connects to the Bilekal forest, Mekedatu, Malaimahadeshwara Hills, the Bandipur area, and the Biligiri Rangana Hills Tiger Reserve, then to Satyamangala and the Western Ghats. In the east, it connects upto Tirupati via Hosur and Chittur," Urs explains.

"According to the National Forest Policy, the state should have 33% forest cover, but Karnataka has only 21%. Instead of increasing the forest area, we are decreasing it," he rues.

'Monitoring committee's responsibility'

However, the ecosensitive zone is functional, as it has a monitoring committee mandated to protect the area, say other observers.

"There is a functioning eco-sensitive zone, and it is the ecosensitive zone monitoring committee's statutory mandate to examine proposals and determine which projects pose potential ecological risks within that zone. Even for development or infrastructure works, the ESZ guidelines clearly stipulate permissible construction limits, including the maximum plinth area allowed," says Avinash Krishnan, director, A Rocha, India, a non-governmental organisation. He is also one of the authors of the study documenting tiger presence in the BNP area.

"We cannot make a broad allegation that 'many' infrastructure projects exist without first establishing how many of them actually fall within the notified ESZ boundary. Some may, others may not, and projects located outside the ESZ come under the jurisdiction of different regulatory bodies," he explains.

"The guidelines clearly define what is permitted, regulated and prohibited. Decisions must be consistent with these definitions. The Monitoring Committee is best placed to state how many proposals were reviewed, which were approved, and which were rejected for non-compliance with ESZ norms," he adds.

However, there is no public data on the meetings held by the ecosensitive zone monitoring committee for Bannerghatta National Park, headed by the regional commissioner and various officials. When *DH* reached out to officials, the data was not readily available.

A source who preferred anonymity says the committee meets once every three months. "If the projects fall within the eco-sensitive zone, or if the members feel it will affect the protected area in any way, the meeting asks for an official field visit to figure out the extent and possible damage. Based on it, the projects are approved or rejected," the source added.

The source added that these meetings use the 2020 notification, with a reduced 1 km buffer zone, as the guideline when deciding on projects.

Projects against the forest

The proposal to build the Satellite Town Ring Road flyover through the forest area is yet another setback. It will cut through the Thattekere area, which lies between Harohalli and Anekal. More than 1500 trees will be cut, and the road will cut the crucial elephant corridor that elephants historically used.

There is no clarity here either, as the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) had requested the forest officials in 2023 to approve the project, citing that it had all approvals. But in response to an RTI request by Kiran Urs in May 2025, NHAI refused to share the detailed plan, saying that the detailed project report was still under development.

"While the ESZ regulations may have come into effect later, the government must recognise that projects of this nature cannot be permitted so close to BNP," says Sanjay Gubbi, a city-based environmentalist.

While establishing the Harohalli industrial area phase-4 in 2022, the new ESZ boundaries were taken into account. According to the application filed by the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board for environmental clearance, "the eco-sensitive zone is to be an extent of 1 km from the boundary of Bannerghatta National Park" — as per the notification of 2020.

The proposed sites for the new airport are Chudahalli and Somanhalli, two adjacent land parcels totalling 4,800 acres and 5,000 acres, respectively. Located close to Kanakapura Road near Harohalli, they are approximately 6-7 kilometres from the boundary of the BNP, say sources.

"If the airport comes up in the proposed locations, it would be yet another disaster, as the area will get commercialised fast and the forest will suffer," says Urs.

Gubbi says that in 2012, he proposed the inclusion of new areas, such as Bilekal Betta, Manjunatha, and Ramadevarabetta, into the BNP area, and the notification was finally gazetted. He says that in 2022, they proposed adding 800 hectares to Bannerghatta National Park. However, this has not yet been notified.

"The park is already highly fragmented and urgently needs to be strengthened through a scientifically planned buffer. Without this, incidents of human–elephant conflict are bound to increase. Proper zoning is essential to clearly identify areas where wildlife needs must be prioritised and where human activities can be accommodated," Gubbi adds.

"Animals and forests have a mutual relationship. When animals stop inhabiting forests, biodiversity patterns change, and various plant species will vanish. It will become yet another Turahalli forest in a few years," Urs cautions.

Feedback:
pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

METRO

Engineer dies after jumping onto metro tracks

Purple Line trains disrupted during morning rush hour

BENGALURU, DHNS

A passenger died after allegedly jumping onto the tracks at the Kengeri metro station on Friday morning, briefly disrupting peak-hour services and renewing concerns about commuter safety.

Shantana Gouda Policepatil

This was the third suicide in the 14-year history of Namma Metro, one of the few mass transit systems in the country to use third-rail traction.

Shantana Gouda Policepatil (38), a mechanical engineer, jumped onto the tracks as a train pulled in at 8.11 am, police said.

Security guards immediately cut off power to the third rail using the emergency trip system, but he was already trapped between the tracks and the train. Police, metro security guards and paramedics later removed the body. Forensic experts collected samples from the scene.

The body was moved to Rajarajeshwari Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem. Kengeri police have opened a case of unnatural death.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) suspended services between Mysuru Road and Challaghatta until 9.40 am, affecting thousands of passengers during peak hour.

Metro staff informed passengers that services would remain suspended for a couple of hours, prompting many to shift to BMTC buses, autos and cabs.

Social media posts described long waits at stations and chaos as commuters scrambled for alternative transport.

Traffic police said the closure led to a surge in demand for BMTC buses, autos and cabs on Mysuru Road, resulting in long queues, higher fares and major congestion.

(If you are struggling with thoughts of self-harm or suicide, know that help is available. Please reach out for support at 14416 or 1800-891-4416).

Third recorded suicide on metro tracks

This was the third-ever suicide on the Bengaluru metro tracks.

In March 2024, a 19-year-old law student died after jumping before an oncoming metro train at the Attiguppe station. In 2012, a 16-year-old died under similar circumstances at MG Road.

There have also been multiple suicide attempts.

A train waits outside the platform at the Kengeri metro station following the suicide on Friday morning.

A security guard at Kengeri informs passengers about the station being shut.

Passengers look for alternative transport outside the Kengeri metro station after train services were suspended.

DH PHOTOS/MANJUNATH SHETTAR

'Faced financial difficulties, depressed'

A native of Devara Hipparagi, Vijayapura district, Shantana Gouda lived in Doddabele, near Kengeri, with his wife Pratibha and one-year-old daughter. He arrived at the Kengeri metro station on a two-wheeler, parked within the premises.

The family had lived in Gujarat for seven years, where Gouda worked at a private company. They moved to Bengaluru recently, living with a friend in Doddabele as he searched for a house to rent.

He joined a company in Talakuppe near Bidadi two weeks ago.

His brother said he had suffered from depression for two years and faced financial difficulties.

He was under medical treatment, but it did not help much.

His brother had advised him to relocate to Dharwad for further care.

Push for platform screen doors

The incidents have reignited calls for installing platform screen doors/gates (PSDs/PSGs), which are synchronised with train movements and designed to prevent people from jumping onto the tracks.

The BMRCL plans to install PSDs at Majestic and Central College stations, but has not yet called tenders. It is also installing PSDs at 12 Pink Line stations and the airport terminal station, and a PSG at the airport city station.

Installing PSDs/PSGs at existing stations requires making design changes and shutting them for weeks. It is also a costly exercise, estimated at Rs 9-10 crore per station.

Police to probe Aryan Khan's obscene gesture at city pub

Video of him flipping off woman widely circulated

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru police have initiated a suo motu case after Aryan Khan, son of a Bollywood superstar, allegedly made an obscene gesture at a pub in the city last week, a senior officer said.

The 28-year-old filmmaker allegedly showed his middle finger towards women during a public event at a pub within the Cubbon Park police station limits on November 28.

A video of the incident has been widely circulated on social media.

"Based on social media posts, we have taken up a suo motu enquiry case and are reviewing CCTV footage of the pub. The case is being investigated under Section 173 B of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Meanwhile, a notice will be issued to the pub management as part of the investigation," Hakay Akshay Machhindra, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central), said.

Owaiz Hussain, a city-based lawyer, has also filed a police complaint seeking the registration of an FIR against Khan.

Hussain on Friday petitioned the state and city police chiefs, the DCP (Central), and the Karnataka State Women's Commission.

He alleged that Khan's act "insulted" the modesty of women present at the event, attracting penal provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. He accused Khan of causing "public discomfort, embarrassment and emotional distress", adding that the incident portrayed Bengaluru in poor light as a "safe and dignified public environment".

To support his case, the complainant cited a February 2025 incident where the Chamarajpet police had arrested a man, Harsha HB, after he allegedly showed his middle finger to a woman near Gopalan Mall.

Based on the woman's video complaint, an FIR was registered for obscene gestures and insulting a woman's modesty.

The lawyer said courts have previously held that showing the middle finger towards a woman is an obscene gesture intended to insult.

The complaint lists offences under three sections of the BNS:

- **Insulting the modesty of a woman:** For intentionally making an obscene and humiliating gesture in the presence of women.
- **Obscene acts in public:** For performing an obscene gesture likely to cause annoyance or distress.
- **Conduct likely to cause public disorder or alarm:** Citing the viral footage and public outrage following the incident.

Shraddananda's plea rejected

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea filed by Swamy Shraddananda — who is serving a life term for murdering his wife Shakereh — seeking a review of the earlier verdict directing that he remain in prison for the rest of his life.

A bench of Justice JK Maheshwari and Justice Vijay Bishnoi asked him to approach the Karnataka government for his grievances. Following this, his counsel, advocate Varun Thakur, withdrew the plea, and the matter was dismissed as withdrawn.

Shraddananda, 84, alias Murali Manohar Mishra, whose wife was the granddaughter of a former dewan of the princely state of Mysore, had sought a review of the Supreme Court's July 2008 judgment.

Last year, the apex court had similarly refused to entertain a plea from him seeking a review of the same verdict, which mandates imprisonment for the remainder of his natural life.

'HYGIENE ON GO'

Mobile toilet initiative for traffic cops launched

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru launched a first-of-its-kind mobile sanitation initiative, 'Hygiene on Go', on Friday.

Home Minister G Parameshwara flagged off three fully equipped mobile toilet units from the state police headquarters.

The initiative aims to provide safe, accessible and hygienic sanitation for traffic police personnel, especially women officers, at the city's busiest corridors.

Traffic police working long hours at city junctions have faced a persistent challenge: limited access to safe and adequate sanitation. This has especially affected women officers, leading to health concerns, including dehydration and urinary infections.

Home Minister G Parameshwara flags off mobile sanitation units at the state police headquarters on Friday.

The new mobile units directly address this longstanding issue.

The vehicles will operate daily from 8.30 am to 7 pm along Thanisandra, Adugodi and Mysuru Road, covering 91 designated halting points.

The project will run until March 2028 at a cost of Rs 2.06 crore, with Rs 80 lakh allocated for procurement and modification of the vehicles.

This Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of Renault Nissan Technology and Business Centre India Private Ltd (RNTBCI) has been implemented by the NGO, Hand in Hand India.

Each mobile sanitation unit is equipped with:

- Separate male and female washrooms.
- Handwash and hygiene facilities.
- Sanitary napkin incinerator for women.
- Mirror and basic utilities.
- First-aid kit and fire extinguisher.
- GPS tracking and exterior CCTV cameras.
- LED display for road safety messaging.

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-Prime Minister, Narendra Modi

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- Uniform Safety Standards to be applicable across the country
- Mandatory Safety Officers for Hazardous processes with 250 or more workers
- Provision of Safety Committee for all establishments
- Mandatory medical examination of all workers before assigning hazardous work
- Free Annual Health check-up during and post engagement
- Women allowed to work in hazardous processes with consent and adequate safety measures

CBC 23101/13/0012/2526

Labour Reforms for Aatmanirbhar Bharat

BWSSB initiative to centralise water sewerage assets wins award

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has won the Geospatial Excellence Award for Water Management for its GIS-based utility asset management platform, Jalapatha, at the GeoSmart India 2025 conference in New Delhi.

The award was presented to BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar.

The award recognises the BWSSB's efforts in geospatial mapping, asset digitisation and real-time data integration, which have helped centralise thousands of water and sewerage assets onto a unified platform—improving planning, monitoring and maintenance efficiency, according to a news release.

The BWSSB has announced that Jalapatha will soon enter its next phase, with advanced geospatial analytics, predictive maintenance tools, and real-time project monitoring, the release added.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Bengaluru Literature Festival: Inauguration: Banu Mushtaq, Prateet Punj Ballal; Freedom Park; 10 am.

NIMHANS 28th Convocation: Nirmala Sitharaman, Dr Sharanprakash Patil, Dr Pratima Murthy to attend; NIMHANS Convention Centre; 5 pm.

Jain Literature Series: Lecture on 'The Uniqueness of Vaddaradhane Stories'; Basavaraj Kalgudi, Shashirekha, Mamatha Kontaraj, Nagashree Muppane to attend; Chakreshwari Mahila Samaj; 4.30 pm.

Dr BR Ambedkar Mahaparinirvan Day: Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University; K Shivakumar, H Raghunath, B Ramesh to attend; Jnana Jyothi Auditorium; 11 am.

CULTURAL

'Dance Karma': Grand Dance Festival by Nirupama Rajendra, TD Rajendra; Dr Premachandra Sagar Kala Kshetra; 10 am.

'Nada Sambhrama' music concert: Performance by TS Srikrishna Mohan, TS Ramkumar (Trichur Brothers); Mangala Mantapa Auditorium; 6.30 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	24.6°C
Minimum	20.2°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	73%
Sunset (Dec 6)	5:52 pm
Sunrise (Dec 7)	6:28 am
Moonrise	6:16 am
Moonset	6:39 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

DH
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: support@deccanherald.co.in

Award for vision-assistance system

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation said it had won the 19th National Digital Transformation Award 2025 for empowering visually impaired passengers through the 'Onboard' assistive technology system.

The system addresses everyday challenges faced by visually impaired passengers—such as difficulty in identifying bus arrivals, boarding/alighting cues and route guidance. Several states have expressed interest in adopting the model within their own transport networks.

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6 Days - Europe Starting @ ₹1 89 999.00
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Social Welfare Department

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

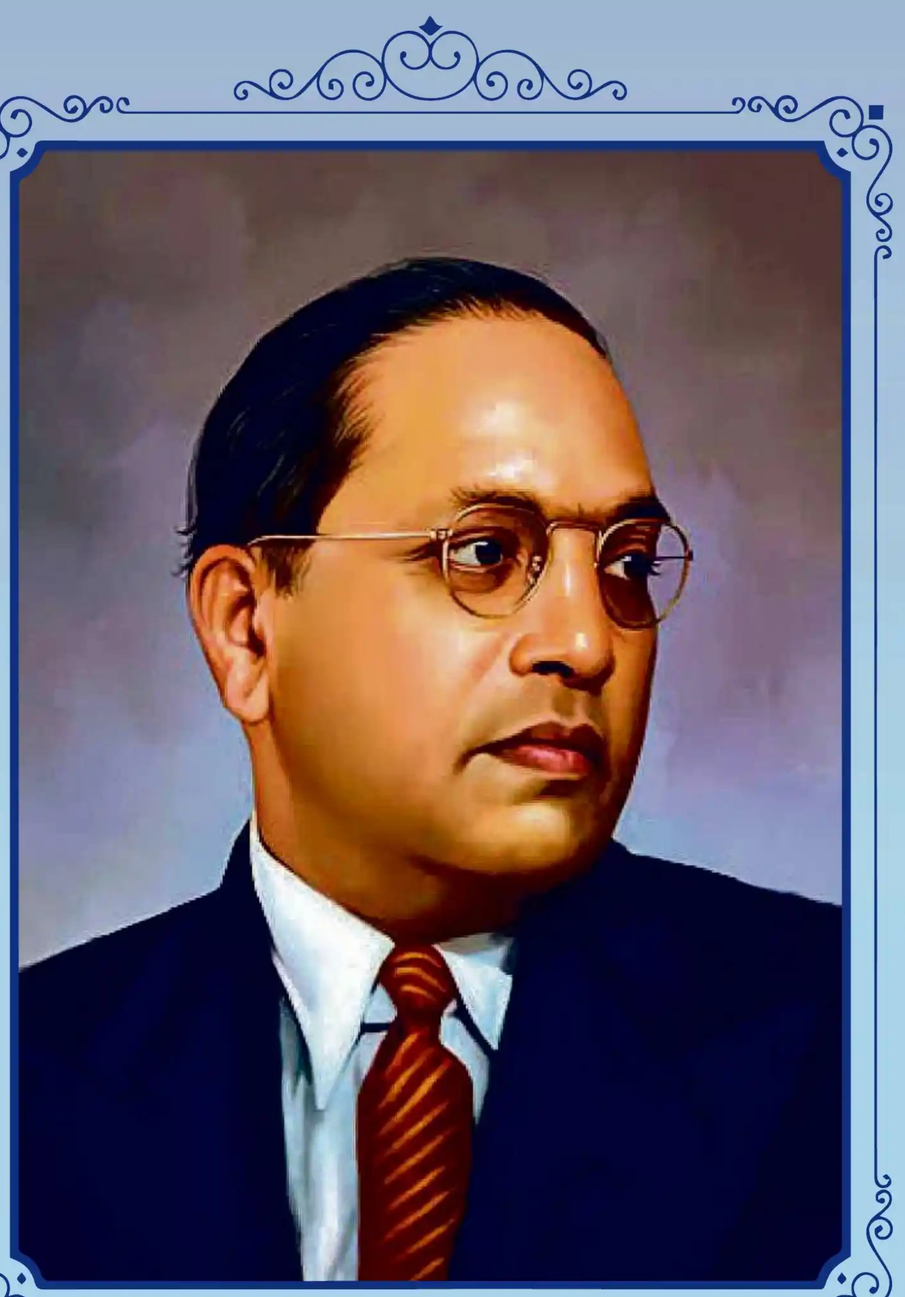
Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

69th Mahaparinirvana Divas
of Architect of Indian Constitution, Great Humanitarian, Bharat Ratna
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Date: 06.12.2025, Saturday Time: 10.00 AM
Venue: (East Gate) Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.

Garlanding the Statue of
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
by

Sri Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble Chief Minister
Sri D.K. Shivakumar, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare



"Educate, Organise and Agitate"
– Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare discussing the programmes of Department with Officers

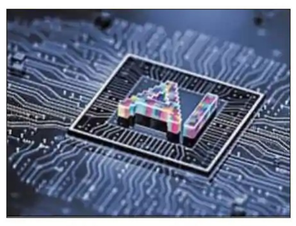
To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

All are Cordially Invited

Secretary to Government, Social Welfare Department
Commissioner Social Welfare Department

Now, AI-based attendance for School Edu Dept employees

The new system does not require physical intervention



BENGALURU, DHNS

Having rolled out an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based attendance system that leverages Aadhaar-linked facial recognition for both teachers and students at government schools, the Department of School Education and Literacy has now decided to use the same system to record attendance of all the other personnel in the department.

On December 1, the biometric attendance system – in use at the office of the Commissioner of Public Instruction – was replaced with the mobile-based Karnataka Attendance Management System (KAMS).

A circular issued by the department to its staff directs all of them to register on the new system, besides informing them to mark their attendance on KAMS henceforth.

Those not marking their attendance on KAMS will be considered 'absent' for that day, and lose pay, besides risking disciplinary action, the circular read. The instructions are binding on all officials, including Deputy Directors of Public Instruction and Block Education Officers.

Biometric attendance systems require regular maintenance, pointed out the circular, by way of explaining the rationale for the switch to KAMS.

"The new system requires no physical intervention," the circular stated.

In a bid to assist department personnel acquaint themselves with the new system, user manuals, published in both Kannada and English, have been issued to them. The KAMS has been designed by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (e-Governance). Department employees will have to use Aadhaar to register themselves on the new system, the link to which has been shared on the WhatsApp group created for employees of the office of the Commissioner of Public Instructions.

Currently, lecturers at a clutch of government pre-university colleges, where KAMS was set up on an experimental basis, are marking their attendance on the new system.

Sources in the department said that the new system was likely to be rolled out at all government schools and colleges from the next academic year.

Cattle slaughter: Govt to ease release of seized vehicles

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Cabinet has approved a legal amendment that will allow vehicles, used for illegal transport of cattle, to be released on an indemnity bond.

At present, the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2020, requires a bank guarantee for the release of vehicles seized during unauthorised cattle transport.

"The seized vehicle could be released only if the amount of the present value of the vehicle is deposited in the bank and a bank guarantee is issued. It is difficult for the small vehicle owners to get a bank guarantee for the release of their vehicles priced between Rs 3-5 lakh and above," the department of animal husbandry said in a note.

The Act will be amended to include the option of providing an indemnity bond for the release of seized vehicles.

In October 2022, the High Court ordered the release of seized vehicles on an indemnity bond. Citing this, the government is amending the law.

The previous BJP government introduced the stringent 2020 Act, which replaced a 1964 law.

The old law allowed slaughter of bulls, bullocks and buffaloes aged over 12 years or if they were unfit for breeding or did not yield milk.

The BJP government's law imposed a blanket ban on the slaughter of cows. The only slaughter allowed is of terminally-ill cattle. Also, buffaloes above the age of 13 years can be slaughtered with permission.

The existing law prohibits transportation of any cattle from any place within the state to any other place within the state or outside for slaughter.

Midnight marathon: Traffic curbs around Kundalahalli

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has announced traffic diversions and restrictions in the Kundalahalli and EPIP areas of Mahadevapura on Saturday to facilitate the 18th Midnight Marathon.

Organised by the Rotary Bangalore IT Corridor, the event will require the closure of key stretches for 14 hours, likely affecting commuters in the busy IT hub.

The restrictions will be in force from 3 pm on Saturday to 5 am on Sunday. Commuters are advised to plan their travel accordingly to avoid delays.

Roads under restriction

The left-side road from Ginger Hotel Junction near the Kundalahalli metro station on Kundalahalli Main Road to the ITPL Back Gate.

Alternative routes

For vehicles moving from Graphite India Junction towards Vaidehi Hospital/ITPL: Turn right near Ginger Hotel, Kundalahalli metro station. Continue on the right-side road until Axis Bank U-turn Junction. Take a mandatory left at Axis Bank U-turn Junction.

At Big Bazaar Junction: Turn left to proceed towards Hoodi. Turn right to proceed towards Hope Farm or Channasandra.

For BMTC buses and heavy goods vehicles travelling from Kundalahalli towards Vydehi: Continue straight to Graphite India Junction. Take a left at Sumadhura Nandanam Apartments. Take another left and continue straight to NetApp Junction. Turn right towards ITPL and Hope Farm.

GRT Jewellers launches 'Dazzling Diamond Festival'

Since its inception in 1964, GRT Jewellers has grown into one of India's most respected jewellery houses, celebrated for its craftsmanship, design excellence and enduring values. Known for creating exquisite collections in gold, diamonds, platinum, silver and gemstones, the brand has earned the trust of generations. With 66 showrooms - 65 across south India and one in Singapore - GRT continues to uphold its legacy of artistry and authenticity while staying deeply connected to the communities it serves.

Continuing this legacy, GRT Jewellers returns with unmatched sparkle and irresistible offers. This season, the brand unveils its most celebrated campaign - 'The Dazzling Diamond Festival'. Showcasing a spectacular collection of diamond masterpieces, the festival celebrates brilliance in every design. You get up to 25 per cent off on diamond and uncut diamond value (excluding solitaires), flat 30 per cent off on making charges and wastage (VA) on platinum jewellery in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, and a flat 30 per cent off on making charges on platinum jewellery in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The offer also extends to 'Oriana', GRT's graceful collection of lightweight diamond jewellery that makes every day a little more brilliant.

At GRT Jewellers, diamond jewellery is backed by GRT Diamond Assurance, offering complete transparency throughout the process. Each jewellery features certified quality diamonds, precise weight-based pricing, lifetime maintenance, clear pricing, carat assurance, ethically-sourced diamonds, HUID mark and guaranteed buy-back. This comprehensive assurance ensures you are fully informed about what you are investing in.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Subbulakshmi's kin debut in film music

S R RAMAKRISHNA
BENGALURU, DHNS

Subbulakshmi's great-granddaughters Saundarya and Aishwarya with Telugu actor Balakrishna during the audio launch of the film, 'Akhanda 2'.

Aishwarya and Saundarya, great-grandchildren of the classical music icon M S Subbulakshmi, are debuting in film music. Their singing is featured in two songs in 'Akhanda 2: Thaandavam', a Telugu film starring Nandamuri Balakrishna. The sisters live in Bengaluru, and recorded the song in Hyderabad for composer Thaman.

"This is our first film recording. We have performed and recorded classical pieces before, but stepping into playback for a big commercial film definitely felt like a new chapter," Saundarya told *DH*.

The film was to release this week, but a last-minute dispute has stalled it.

The sisters are open to more work in films, and don't feel film music is a distraction from the rigours of classical music. They perform on the stage widely, and in 2022, reprised their great-grandmother's 'Sri Venkateswara Suprabhatham' recording with one of their own. The sisters are following in the footsteps of Subbulakshmi, who had sung in five films between 1937 and 1947. In 'Meera', made in Tamil and subsequently in Hindi, she donned the titular saint-poet's role, and her songs enjoyed all-India appeal.

"Classical music is our foundation and playback is just another way to express ourselves. In fact, our classical training helped us bring more depth, clarity, and emotion to the recording. As long as we stay rooted in our training, exploring film music only adds to our growth," said Saundarya.

The sisters like songs from 'Kantara'. Aishwarya particularly likes songs from the Tamil film 'Ponniyin Selvan 1 and 2' as they blend "Karnatik melodies with rich orchestration."

MECON LIMITED
(A PSU under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India)
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1. MECON Limited requires 44 (Forty Four) nos. of Experienced Personnel in Regular Scale of Pay (Advt. No. 11.73.4.3/2025/Reg/07 dated : 06.11.2025) as follows :

Post Code	Name of Posts	No. of Posts	Pay Scale	Grade
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3	Junior Engineer (Civil)	25		
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5	Junior Engineer (Electrical)	02		
6	Junior Officer (HR)	02		
7	Junior Officer (Admin)	02		

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Jharkhand Industrial Area Development Authority, Ranchi
3rd Floor, JIADA Building, Namkum Industrial Area Lowadih, Namkum Ranchi-834010
Website- https://jiada.jharkhand.gov.in , E-mail ID-mdjiada@gmail.com & md-jiada@jharkhandmail.gov.in

Public Notice

Advertisement No.-_1284 Dated-____05.12.2025

Subject: Long term lease of newly built IT Tower, Lowadih, Namkum Industrial Area, Ranchi

Jharkhand Industrial Area Development Authority (JIADA) invites applications from reputed organizations and eligible entities of IT /ITes sector for the **long-term lease for a period of 30 years of a state-of-the-art IT Tower** located in the strategic **Namkum Industrial Area, Ranchi**. **Key Features of the IT Tower are:**

- Structure: G+5, Total Area: Approx. 40,000 Sqft.
- Proximity to key urban centres.
- Designed to cater to modern IT/ITes needs.

S. No.	Particulars	Details
1.	Total Cost (Land +Building)	17.65 Cr.
2.	Application Submission Starts	08.12.2025
3.	Application Submission Ends	29.12.2025
4.	Application Opening Date	30.12.2025
5.	Application Fee	10,000+GST 18%

Terms and Conditions:

- The lessee shall pay the rent, maintenance charges, and any other applicable fees as stipulated in the lease agreement without any delay.
- The lessee shall pay total cost within 30 (thirty) days from the date of receipt of letter of provisional allotment by way of online payment through Single Window System.
- The lessee may pay the total cost in 10 (ten) equal instalments in spread of five(5) years, but they will have to pay five (5) percent interest per annum on the remaining principal amount which will be collected with the instalment amount due for the period. If the lessee fails to pay instalment on time, the interest of 15% shall be levied on instalment amount from the due date.
- Failure to make timely payments may attract penalties or result in lease termination as per the provisions of the JIADA Regulation-2016.
- The lessee shall comply with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, including but not limited to environmental and labour during the lease period.
- The lessee shall not make any structural alterations, modifications, or additions to the premises without prior written approval from JIADA.
- The lessee shall maintain the premises in good condition and undertake necessary repairs at their own cost, except for those repairs deemed the responsibility of JIADA as per the lease agreement.
- Any damage to the property caused by negligence or misuse by the lessee shall be rectified by the lessee at their own expense.
- The lessee shall not sub-lease, assign, or transfer the lease or any part thereof to any third party without the prior written consent of JIADA.
- JIADA or its authorized representatives shall have the right to inspect the leased premises at reasonable intervals to ensure compliance with the terms of the lease.
- Renewal of the lease, if applicable, shall be subject to mutual agreement and compliance with the terms specified in the lease agreement and JIADA regulations-2016.

Interested organizations and eligible entities of IT /ITes sector may submit their application through Single Window System website www.advantage.jharkhand.gov.in .
The allotment process shall be governed in accordance with the provisions of the JIADA Regulation- 2016. For further details please contact on above mentioned address and Phone 8294472762 Email riada.rnc@gmail.com The detailed information is also available on https://jiada.jharkhand.gov.in and notice board of JIADA..
JIADA reserves the right to withdraw or cancel this advertisement at any time without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Secretary,
JIADA, Ranchi

PR 367815 (RIADA (JIADA))25-26*D

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Salem Division
Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-Tender Notice
Online tender is invited for the following work:

Tender No	SA_A_RS_ED_OT_25_26_14, Dated: 02-12-2025
Description of Work	Works contract for Loco washing and cleaning the side body filters, interior of Corridor, CABs and Lookoutglasses of electric Loco Shed, Salem Division, Southern Railway, Erode.

All details regarding the tender are available at https://www.ireps.gov.in
DEE/RS/ED, For Sr.DEE/RS/ED

e-Auction for SLR Parcel Van over Ranchi Division
Notification No.: C/RNC/e-auction/2025 Dated: 04.12.2025
For & on behalf of the President of India, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, South Eastern Railway, Ranchi has invited e-auction over Ranchi Division. The catalogue has already been published on IREPS website. The details are as under: **Category:** Parcel. **Catalogue No.: RNCPARCEL25-4. Assets Details:** E-auction for 40 nos. of assets for leasing of SLR compartment by 33 numbers of passenger/mail/Express train originating from Ranchi Division. **Auction Start:** 15.12.2025 at 10.00 hrs. **Auction Closed Date:** 15.12.2025 at 17.00 hrs. **Note:** Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-auction leasing module on IREPS website **(www.ireps.gov.in).** The Lot wise details are available there under the above mentioned catalogue.
(PR-922) Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Ranchi
South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

Govt. of Jharkhand
Energy Department
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.
Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165
E-mail: info@jreda.com ; Website: www.jreda.com

NOTICE FOR INVITING TENDER (NIB)
e-Procurement Notice
Tender reference no.: 13/JREDA/RMS/PM-KUSUM/ 25-26
Dated: 05.12.2025

1.	Name of the work	Configuration of devices with providing SCADA Software License, Deployment, integration and Go live service for each installed and new remote monitoring systems as well as Upgradation and Integration of existing State Level Portal & National Level Portal of PM-KUSUM scheme Component-B , along with establishment of Unified Monitoring and Information Management System for Customer Grievances Handling, and Operational Reporting with Five (5) years O&M Contract for Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA), Ranchi
2.	Period of Contract	3 Months Deployment + 60 Months O&M
3.	Date of publication of NIT on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in	05.12.2025
4.	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	12.12.2025 at 2:00 PM
5.	Last date & time for receipt of online bids	29.12.2025 (Monday) up to 5:00 PM
6.	Submission of Bid fee and EMD through Online Via SBI Payment Gateway of Jharkhand Tenders	29.12.2025 (Monday) up to 5:00 PM
7.	Technical Bid Opening Date	31.12.2025 (Wednesday) at 3:00 PM
8.	Name & address of office inviting tender	Director, Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA), 3rd Floor, SLDC Building, Kusai, Doranda, Ranchi- 834002 (Jharkhand)
9.	Contact no. of procurement officer	0651-2491167/68/61
10.	Helpline no. of e-procurement	0651-2491167/68/61

Any corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com. Further details can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com

Sd/-
Director,
JREDA, Ranchi

PR 367808 (Energy)25-26*D

SUPPLY AND APPLICATION OF 3-PART COMPOSITE HIGH VOLTAGE INSULATED COATING
E-Tender Notice No. TRD/LMG/23 of 2025-26 dated: 03-12-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No. EL-TRD-NFR-LMG-OHE-MOD-45 Dated: 03-12-2025. Name of work:** Supply and application of 3-part composite high voltage insulated coating under FOB/ROB/Girder bridges to prevent flashover and tripping due to inadequate electrical clearance, suitable for 25 kV AC traction system in Lumding Division. **Tender Value:** ₹3,28,55,160.06/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 3,14,300/-. **Date & Time of closing of tender: 15.00** hrs. on **25-12-2025.** The complete information of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**
Sr. DEE/TRD/Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 41 UBL 2025-26
Dated : 28-11-2025
The undersigned on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	Hubballi Division : Proposed Ballast depot at Bhairidevarakoppa (old Amargol Station).	Rs. 2,52,69,079/-
2	Hubballi Division : Hubballi - Alnavar Cess widening for a total length of 41.99 Rkm	Rs. 10,29,20,670/-
3	Hubballi Division : Hubballi - Alnavar TBR-40.192 Tkm main line, TBR of P & C for 9 sets in loop line.	Rs. 2,35,86,976/-

Last date for submission of bids: Up to 11.00 Hours on 29-12-2025
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination Hubballi
PUB/702/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/163/2025
Dated : 02-12-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Bengaluru - Setting up of 'safety village' for training of break down officials in disaster management at IRIDM - Hejjala - Balance works of : Administrative Block / Hostel / Sports Complex / Quarters / Station Building / Roads / Bridges, Drains etc. New Works of : Rain Water Harvesting / STP / Multi Purpose Hall / alterations in Existing Rooms / Supervisor & Officer blocks / New Halt Station works etc. Accident demonstration open theatre for demonstration of accidents with 140T DBHD crane / Covered shed of total size 40.00 m x 12.00 m for stabling Gottwald Design 140T on capacity Crane on Hejjala siding etc., including Electric works (Composite work). (Tender Ref. No. HJS-DMISV-07R)	Rs. 27,00,70,546/-

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 15:00 Hrs on 23-12-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/705/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
E-Auction Schedule
Sub. : Schedule of E-Auction for the month of January'2026, February 2026 & March'2026. It is proposed to hold following e-auction date in the month of January'2026, February 2026 & March'2026. Month ; Type Of Auction ; Date ; Time are as follows: January' 2026 ; E-Auction ; 09/01/2026 (Friday), 16/01/2026 (Friday), 22/01/2026 (Thursday), 30/01/2026 (Friday); 10:00 hrs. February' 2026 ; E-Auction ; 06/02/2026 (Friday), 13/02/2026 (Friday), 20/02/2026 (Friday), 27/02/2026 (Friday); 10:00 hrs. March' 2026 ; E–Auction ; 06/03/2026 (Friday), 13/03/2026 (Friday), 20/03/2026 (Friday), 27/03/2026 (Friday); 10:00 hrs. On above mentioned date, time fixing for E-Auction for sale of various types of Vehicles, Crane, Machines i.e. Lathe, Drilling/ Milling/ Boring, Transformer, Rectifier, Ferrous and Non-ferrous scraps i.e. copper, aluminum etc. Non-ferrous scrap will be sold only to those who are registered by Ministry of Environment & Forest/Govt. of India/New Delhi. One time Registration Fees will be Rs.10,000/- for each firm (Refundable, if a purchaser deems to permanently withdrawal his registration for bidding from Indian Railways e-auction) in forms of Demand Draft in favor of PFA/CLW/ Chittaranjan along with Affidavit. Catalogue of materials can be viewed in IREPS website before e-auction date.
PR8/256 PCMM/CLW/CRJ.
Like us on:www.facebook.com/clwrailways

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10K Powered By Hosachiguru
ಓಡೋಣ ಬನ್ನಿ
#MILES4SMILES
THUMP! CELEBRATION BENGALURU 1/2 MARATHON & 10K
Media Partner DH ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

14 December 2025
Event Venue: Nice Road Check Post, NICE Bangalore Mysore Expressway, Hosakerehalli, Bengaluru
Organized by life is calling
Media Partner DH ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ
Social Cause Partner RUNADDICTS FOUNDATION
Sports Partner DECATHLON Mysore Road, Kengeri
Protein Partner Akshayakalpa Organic
Coworking Partner BHIVE
Cycling Partner Tour de Malnad 09 Jan - 12 Jan '26
Ticketing Partner eventzalley
Stay Partner
Medical Partner BANGALORE HOSPITALS Jayanagar & Kengeri

Two-day India-Japan science forum explores innovation

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) conducted a two-day conference on innovative solutions for India-Japan synergy.

Titled 'India-Japan Science Technology Innovation Forum', the conference brought together thought leaders, industry experts and innovators from both countries.

The aim is to explore how intensified collaborations between the countries in science and technology can help address global challenges and build a resilient future.

The conference is organised in collaboration with Keio University, Japan.

Ambassador Raj Kumar Srivastava shared insights on the strengthening relations between India and Japan, especially in the field of AI and Deep Tech — including collaborative AI research between Indian institutes and Japanese labs, quantum computing partnerships and semiconductor supply chain dialogues.

He added that momentum was needed in establishing an India-Japan corridor and moving from bilateral projects to multilateral leadership.

Srivastava told *DH* that it was important for India to pick up the attitude of self-reliance and problem-solving from Japanese culture.

RAJ KUMAR SRIVASTAVA
Ambassador

> It is important for India to pick up the attitude of self-reliance and problem-solving from Japanese culture.

'Jugaad'

"The Indian word 'jugaad' even made it to the Harvard Business School, but it is time we move beyond that mindset. 'Jugaad' is good for survival, but it is not good for sustainability. We need to focus on problem solving and finding solutions. With our startup culture thriving, we are finally moving in that direction," he said.

The conference saw three panel discussions on the inaugural day, on Thursday — 'Enabling Technologies and Sectors', 'Economic Partnership to Shape Strategic Growth', and 'Codesigning a Sustainable Future'.

Masafumi Senda, country head of New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organisation, shared insights on how biogas can be used to replace CNG vehicles in the country, among other sustainable solutions.

A discussion on 'Skilling for Resilience and Innovation' was held on Friday.

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Date	Day	Venue
15th Dec, at 9 am	Monday	RV Auditorium (RV Teachers College), Rashtriya Vidyalaya Rd, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Baby Dolne, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560011

Scan the QR code to register or visit www.Prajavani.net
Contact: 73380 18541 (from 12 pm to 5 pm, Mon-Fri)

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Unique Identificaion Authority of India

4th Floor Bangla Sahib Road, Behind Kali Mandir, Gole Market, New Delhi-110001

Vacancy circular for filling up one post of Director, on deputation basis (on Foreign Service terms) in Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Regional Office, Bengaluru

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) invites applications on deputation basis (on Foreign Service terms) for one post of Director, at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Regional Office, Bengaluru.

The application may be furnished in the prescribed proforma and forwarded to the Director (HR), Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), 4th Floor, Bangla Sahib Road, Behind Kali Mandir, Gole Market, New Delhi- 110 001 and additionally, send the same by email at **deputation@uidai.net.in.** The last date for receipt of applications complete in all respects is **07.01.2026.** - Since this vacancy is to be filled up on deputation basis, private candidates are not eligible.

-Applications received after the last date or otherwise found incomplete shall not be considered. Further details, including the terms and conditions of application procedure, are available on the Authority's website at **https://uidai.gov.in/images/VC_169_2025.pdf.**

Director (HR)

Now Aadhaar Enrolment & Update Facilities can also be availed at Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK). To locate one near you, visit.uidai.gov.in or call 1947

CBC 54103/11/0127/2526

Unique Identificaion Authority of India

4th Floor Bangla Sahib Road, Behind Kali Mandir, Gole Market, New Delhi-110001

Vacancy circular for filling up one post of Assistant Section Officer on deputation basis (on Foreign Service terms) in Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Regional Office, Bengaluru

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) invites applications on deputation basis (on Foreign Service terms) for one post of Assistant Section Officer at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Regional Office, Bengaluru.

The application may be furnished in the prescribed proforma and forwarded to the Director (HR), Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Regional Office, 3rd Floor, South Wing, Khanija Bhavan, No.49, Race Course Road, Bengalure-560 001 The last date for receipt of applications complete in all respects is **23.12.2025**. Since this vacancy is to be filled up on deputation basis, private candidates are not eligible.

Applications received after the last date or otherwise found incomplete shall not be considered. Further details, including the terms and conditions of application procedure, are available on the Authority's website at **https://uidai.gov.in/images/VC_153_2025.pdf.**

Director (HR)

Now Aadhaar Enrolment & Update Facilities can also be availed at Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK). To locate one near you, visit.uidai.gov.in or call 1947

CBC 54103/11/0108/2526

Unique Identification Authority of India
4th Floor Bangla Sahib Road, Behind Kali Mandir, Gole Market, New Delhi - 110 001

Vacancy circular for filling up two posts of Section Officer on deputation basis (on Foreign Service terms) in Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Technology Centre, Bengaluru.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) invites applications on deputation basis (on Foreign Service terms) for two posts of Section Officer at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Technology Centre, Bengaluru.

The application may be furnished in the prescribed proforma and forwarded to the Director (HR), Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Aadhaar Complex, NTI Layout, Tata Nagar, Kodigehalli, Technology Centre, Bengaluru-560092. The last date for receipt of applications complete in all respects is **12.01.2026.** Since these vacancies are to be filled up on deputation basis, private candidates are not eligible.

Applications received after the last date or otherwise found incomplete shall not be considered. Further details, including the terms and conditions of deputation and application procedure, are available on the Authority's website at **https://uidai.gov.in/images/VC_168_2025.pdf.**

Director (HR)

Now Aadhaar Enrolment & Update Facilities can also be availed at Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK). To locate one near you, visit uidai.gov.in or call 1947

CBC 54103/11/0125/2526

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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ON HIS MAHAPARINIRVAN DIWAS

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- Janma Bhoomi, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh
- Dr. Ambedkar Memorial, London
- Chaitya Bhoomi, Dadar, Mumbai
- Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial, 26 Alipur Road, Delhi
- Deeksha Bhoomi, Nagpur

Establishment of world-class Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in Delhi to promote research in socio-economic field

> Babasaheb's thoughts for the welfare of Dalits, victims, deprived and exploited are the inspiration for our government. This is the reason that all our schemes have been implemented keeping in mind the poorest of the poor and we have set many norms towards social justice.
>
> Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Central Government Committed to Equality, Inclusion and Development of SC Community

- More than **3.3 crore** tap water connections and about **3.4 crore** toilets ensure a dignified life for beneficiaries
- More than **3 crore** SC/ST beneficiaries got Ujjwala gas connection
- **1.47 crore** pucca houses made the lives of beneficiaries easier
- Under the **PM-MUDRA Yojana**, more than **₹5 lakh crore** provided to empower entrepreneurship of people
- Under the **Ayushman Bharat PM Jan Arogya Yojana**, people are assured free treatment up to **₹5 lakh** every year
- Budget allocation increased more than three times to **₹1.68 lakh crore** as compared to **₹50,500 crore** in 2014
- Under the **Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme**, the future of approximately **8.73 crore** students brightened with an assistance of over **₹48,000 crore**
- Financial assistance to marginalized community through **PM-SURAJ portal**
- **Financial** and **technical** support to companies run by SC community under the **Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission**
- **Helpline number 14566** for Prevention of Atrocities against SC

cbc38101/13/0038/2526

All are cordially invited for Floral Tribute

Date: 6th December, 2025 | Time: 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 Noon | Venue: Prerna Sthal, Parliament House Campus | Entry: PLB Gate (Parliament Library Building), Pandit Pant Marg, New Delhi

Please do not bring prohibited articles such as Bags, Briefcase, Packets, Cell Phones, Pens, Camera, Flag, Lathis, Playcards, Marshals, Banners, Firearms, Swords, Hailers and other objectionable items. Personal belongings may be deposited in the **Dr. Ambedkar Foundation's** stall erected near Pandit Pant Marg.

Spoken Kannada classes

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kannada Prasaara Parishat has started online spoken Kannada classes in two batches.

The Basic Spoken Kannada Class Batch-1, which began on November 2, will conclude in the second week of January. The classes are held on Fridays (7.30 pm to 9 pm) and Sundays (10.30 am to noon).

Batch-2, which began on November 4, will end in the second week of January.

The classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays (7.30 pm to 9 pm).

Each batch will have 30 hours of classes spread over 20 sessions. Both batches will continue only if at least 20 participants register.

If enough participants register, level-2 classes will be launched.

For details, contact BV Raghavan at 9448878569, according to a news release.

Don't Miss Tomorrow's
DH on Sunday
DECCAN HERALD

BIG PICTURE
What do women bring to the workplace?

BOOKS
David Szalay's Booker winner, Flesh, is an intriguing read.

ART & PURSUITS
The delicate art of distortion.

FOOD & DRINK
Indian chefs are reimagining winter produce.

GENDER
Why is autism diagnosis skewed for girls?

WELLNESS
Two experts weigh in on how decreased sunlight impacts health.

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KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
#49, "Parisara Bhavan", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street,
Bengaluru-560001, Karnataka,
Phone: 25581383, 25589112, 25586520, Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in, Website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No. PCB 87 INFRA EPH 2025/3687 Date:05/12/2025

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board has proposed for development of Dobaspet Industrial Area 7th Phase (Machanahalli Industrial Area) project in a total extent of 520.75 Acres at Geddalahalli, Machanahalli and Gottigere Village, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. The Project requires obtaining Environmental Clearance as per EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006, and it is required to conduct Environmental Public Hearing process. Accordingly, the Project Proponent has obtained Terms of Reference (ToR) issued by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority -Karnataka dated 10.07.2025 vide File No. SEIAA 14 IND 2025, proposal No. SIA/KA/INFRA1/529268/2025 dated: 09.04.2025 and TOR Identification No. TO25B3102KA5325612N. As per project proponent request letter No. KIADB/EE-1/722/2025-26, dated: 31.07.2025 & RO - Nelamangala letter No. PCB/RO-Nelamangala/2025-26/698, dated: 28.11.2025, the Environmental Public hearing is scheduled by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District on **07th January 2026 Wednesday at 11.30 AM.** The Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the Board as per details given below:

1. Name of the Company & Address: Executive Engineer-1, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board, Zonal Office, Bengaluru, #14/3, 1st Floor, Maharshi Arvinda Bhavana, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001.

2. Proposed location of the project :"Dobaspet Industrial Area" 7th Phase (Machanahalli Industrial Area) project in a total extent of 520.75 Acres at Geddalahalli, Machanahalli and Gottigere Village, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

3. Details of activity : Development of "Dobaspet Industrial Area" 7th Phase (Machanahalli Industrial Area) project in a total extent of 520.75 Acres at Geddalahalli, Machanahalli and Gottigere Village, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

4. Date, time and venue of Public hearing : Date: 07th January 2026 (Wednesday), Time: 11.30 AM. Place: at Sy. No. 107/1, Machanahalli Village, Bengaluru Rural District.

5. Capital Investment : Rs.798.05Cr. (Project cost)

6. Places of availability of project documents kept open for public : **(a)** Office of the Deputy Commissioner, District Administrative Building, Beerasandra, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. **(b)** Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Bengaluru Rural District Zilla Panchayat, Bengaluru Rural District. **(c)** District Industries Centre, DC Office complex, Bengaluru Rural District. **(d)** Office of Tahasildar, Nelamangala, Bengaluru Rural District **(e)** Grama Panchayath Office, Geddalahalli Village, Kuluvnahalli village panchayath, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District **(f)** Grama Panchayath Office, Machanahalli Village, Shivagange Village Panhayath, Bengaluru Rural District. **(g)** Grama Panchayath Office, Gottigere Village, Shivagange Village Panhayath, Bengaluru Rural District. **(h)** Office of the Senior Environmental Officer- Bengaluru North, Urban Eco Park, 3rd floor, 100 feet road, 3rd Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bengaluru-560058. **(i)** Office of the Regional Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office -Nelamangala, 1st Floor, Urban Eco Park, 100 Feet Road, 3rd Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bengaluru-560058. **(j)** Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, South Zone Office, E-3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560034. **(k)** State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority-Karnataka (SEIAA), 4th Gate, 7th Floor, Forest Ecology and Environmental Department, MS Building, Bengaluru-560001 **(l)** HELP DESK, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru-560 001.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site who are likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited, within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details, please visit our website: **https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

Our motto is to minimize waste generation through judicious use of natural resources

DyCM warns metro Blue Line contractors over deadline slips

Would lead to blacklisting from future contracts: DKS

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday issued a sharp directive to contractors of Namma Metro's Blue Line (airport corridor), instructing them to adhere strictly to the deadlines, and warning that failure to meet targets would lead to blacklisting from future contracts.

Following an inspection of the ongoing metro work at Kodigehalli, Shivakumar informed the media about the phase-wise completion targets committed by the contracting agencies.

"We have instructed the contractors to complete the Blue Line within the stipulated time," he noted.

According to him, the KR Pura-Silk Board Junction section (19.75 km) will open by December 2026, Hebbal-airport (27.44 km) in June 2027, and KR Pura-Hebbal (11 km) by December 2027.

The KR Pura-Silk Board deadline seems to have been quietly pushed again, from September to December 2027.

He also announced plans to begin train operations on completed sections of the Blue Line. "We are considering starting train services once 5-6 stations are completed."

The entire line, running from Silk Board to the airport, will feature 30 stations, he noted.

The 58.19-km line has been divided into five packages. While Afcons Infrastructure is constructing the Silk Board Junction-Kadubeesanahalli stretch and SNC Construction Kadubeesanahalli-Baiyappanahalli, NCC Ltd is building three packages between Beniganahalli and the airport.

Work on the KR Pura-Hebbal section (11 km) was suspended for nine months following a fatal accident in HBR Layout in January 2023.

"Whether it is NCC or any other contractor, if they fail to complete the work within the fixed timeline, they will not be given any work in the future. Our primary objective is project implementation," Shivakumar asserted, noting that two other contractors (Afcons and SNC) were performing well.

The DyCM acknowledged that work had slowed down following the 2023 fatal accident, forcing a restriction on construction activities primarily to the night hours to manage heavy traffic congestion.

He also addressed specific site issues where he stated that launching girders would not be allowed to move outside the city until the work in the area was complete.

Additional Chief Secretary Tushar Girinath has been assigned the responsibility of overseeing the project's progress.

BMRCL Managing Director J Ravishankar and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

The DyCM's review came just two days after Revenue Minister and Byatarayanapura MLA Krishna Byre Gowda inspected the metro works from Nagawara to Allalasandra. He publicly berated the contractor, asking whether constructing a metro pillar was "rocket science".

BMRCL Executive Director S Hegaraddi (R) briefs Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on the metro Blue Line. BMRCL Managing Director J Ravishankar also seen.

Pink Line prototype rollout pushed to Dec 11

BENGALURU, DHNS: The rollout of the Pink Line prototype train has been postponed to December 11, sources in the know said.

The six-coach trainset was to be unveiled on Friday afternoon in the presence of senior BEML management and BMRCL officials.

But with Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar deciding to inspect the Blue Line works around the same time, the event has been rescheduled to Thursday.

Originally slated for delivery in June 2025, the prototype was delayed due to shortages of key equipment and delays in type tests.

Once the prototype arrives, the BMRCL will seek statutory approvals for the new rolling stock. The Pink Line's elevated section is slated to open in May 2026.

Govt engages legal experts on NICE projects

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has engaged a Bengaluru-based law firm to undertake legal assessment of the Bengaluru-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Project (BMICP), which includes NICE Road.

The Finance Department has allowed the Public Works Department (PWD) to use up to Rs 50 lakh for the work.

The law firm, Lexplexus Consulting, will study the original framework agreement, land acquisition status and pending works before suggesting a way forward, as both the concessionaire and the state government have had differences on several fronts.

In mid-2025, the state cabinet formed a committee headed by Home Minister G Parameshwara to offer solutions, but the committee decided to engage a third party for advice.

Meanwhile, Ashok Kheny, managing director of NICE Ltd, said the alternate road connecting Mysuru Road (near BHEL Junction) and NICE Road at Hosakerehalli will be ready in two weeks. It is learnt that the government plans to provide 20 guntas of land for the link road.

DKS to BDA: Deposit compensation in court, proceed with PRR land acquisition

Asserts govt would not denotify land notified for project

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday said the state government would proceed with land acquisition for the 74-km Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project, directing the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to deposit compensation for protesting landowners in court. He reiterated that the government would not denotify any land notified for the project.

"We have introduced a compensation model that is the best in the country. Landowners can opt for one of five options: 35% of commercial land, 40% of residential site, Transferable Development Rights (TDR), Floor Area Ratio (FAR), or cash. No one has offered such variety before," he told reporters.

He added that the BDA was instructed to disburse compensation to landowners willing to accept it.

"If farmers are not willing to take it, we will deposit compensation at old rates in court," the DyCM said, adding that the court is well aware of the project's importance. "The Supreme Court has also ruled in favour of this project. Justice will prevail."

The 10-lane PRR project, connecting Tumakuru Road and Hosur Road in the city's peripheral areas, requires a total of 2,560 acres. The BDA notified about 1,800 acres in 2006-07, and the remainder about three years ago. The project stalled as successive governments did not resolve acquisition issues.

In October, the state cabinet approved five compensation options to make them more attractive for landowners reluctant to part with their land as prices have soared due to the IT boom. Some farmers have also approached the court against acquisition.

Last month, the BDA decided to pass awards for about 140 acres whose owners have not challenged acquisition. About 150 acres are under litigation. Authorities plan to pass fresh awards for about 950 acres based on the new compensation options once the state government approves, as previous awards were based on old rates.

Officials have set a three-month target to finish most of the land acquisition process.

KDA Chairman Purushotham Bilamale at a meeting with a high-profile delegation from Kasaragod on Friday.

KDA seeks cultural integration of 'Akhanda Karnataka' regions

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kannada Development Authority (KDA) Chairman Purushotham Bilimale on Friday strongly advocated for the cultural integration of all Kannada-speaking regions historically part of Akhanda Karnataka (Undivided Karnataka), asserting that cultural unity must transcend current interstate boundaries.

Speaking at a meeting with a high-level delegation from Kasaragod (Kerala), Bilimale said the time was right for the state government to draft a special action plan to strengthen emotional and cultural ties with these regions.

He welcomed the government's decision to appoint a dedicated Border Affairs Minister for the first time, but urged the minister to broaden the mandate beyond immediate border zones to cover the overall welfare of Kannadigas living in culturally Kannada-dominant regions such as Kasaragod, Sangli and Solapur.

Such a proactive approach, he said, is vital to preserving the cultural identity of Akhanda Karnataka.

The Kasaragod delegation submitted a charter of demands to the KDA chairman, focusing on cultural and educational support.

Bilimale said he would forward the memorandum to the chief minister, the border affairs minister, and the Kannada and Culture Minister, seeking increased financial allocations in the upcoming state budget.

After the meeting, the delegation, along with Bilimale, met Kannada and Culture Minister Shivraj Tangadagi and Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh to press for immediate consideration of the Kasaragod Kannadigas' demands.

KEY DEMANDS

- State awards for Kannada achievers from border areas.
- Funds for constructing and protecting Kannada cultural monuments in Kasaragod.
- Regular screening of Kannada films.
- Grants for the development of Kannada-medium schools.
- Parity in educational benefits for students pursuing Kannada-medium education in Kasaragod.

Priyank Kharge, ORRCA discuss infra challenges in IT corridor

BENGALURU, DHNS: Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT/BT and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, and senior government officials met representatives of leading companies operating along the Outer Ring Road corridor at a townhall organised by the Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA) in Bengaluru on Friday.

The meeting focused on addressing critical infrastructure, civic and mobility challenges faced along one of India's major technology and business corridors.

During the interaction, industry leaders flagged key issues such as last-mile connectivity to metro stations, the condition of service roads and footpaths, congestion at major junctions, accumulation of garbage in high-density stretches, telecom disruptions due to continuous construction, and the need for smoother integration between metro, buses and workplace transport solutions.

Addressing the gathering, Kharge said the state government has earmarked Rs 450 crore for comprehensive road upgradation along the Silk Board to KR Puram stretch, including black-topping, service roads, street lighting and pedestrian infrastructure.

Minister Priyank Kharge and senior civic officials with ORRCA representatives on Friday.

"This corridor is central to Karnataka's technology economy. While large infrastructure like the metro takes time, we are committed to fixing the immediate, high-impact issues on the ground," he said.

ONCE MAJESTIC, NOW SILENT RUIN

700-year-old Hoysala-era temple in Jigani in ruins

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Hoysala dynasty's footprint in Bengaluru is vanishing, erased by years of neglect and unchecked vandalism.

The Varadaraja Swamy Temple in Jigani, over 700 years old and built during the reign of Hoysala King Veera Ballala III, stands in severe disrepair, hemmed in by filth and under threat from unchecked biological growth, in the midst of the city's industrial sprawl.

Rubbish clogs the temple grounds and sections of the intricate stonework have collapsed. The sanctum sanctorum stands empty and sealed, shrouded in cobwebs. Massive Peepal trees have burrowed through the superstructure, their roots splitting ancient stone and pushing the monument closer to ruin.

Commissioned by Purvadiraya, a Hoysala feudatory who also built the Champakadhama Swamy Temple near Bannerghatta, the temple's silent corridors echo with history.

Local historian HG Shashidara confirmed the monument's significance. "It is not a surprise to hear of a Hoysala temple in Bengaluru. There are over 15 such temples constructed during the period of Veera Ballala III in the city and rural district. The temple's historical significance is cemented by an existing Tamil inscription on its wall."

MC Venugopal, a long-time resident whose family lives near the site, lamented the loss of what was once the village's cultural centre. "This place was where marriages and festivals were held. Even the high school operated out of this space for a time."

He pointed out that the complex stone blocks, which are incredibly difficult to replicate, have been "destroyed by someone greedy for money".

The temple sits within the bustling Jigani Industrial Area, surrounded by thousands of companies and ceaseless activity.

Shashidara believes that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives from even a few firms could easily fund conservation. "This monument exists in an unknown state. If companies or villagers pool a small amount, this temple can be restored," he said.

The deplorable state of the Varadaraja Swamy temple at Jigani.

TAMIL INSCRIPTION

- The remains include the sanctum and auspicious hall, silent witnesses to centuries past.
- A 1307 CE Tamil inscription links the site to Hoysala-affiliated King Tribhuvanamalla Purvadi Raya.

Dept promises action

Devaraju A, Commissioner, Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, said he would instruct the district officer to check the status and inspect the site.

He also said that under the Samrakshana Yojane (Conservation Scheme), the department conducts surveys across the state to identify historically significant antiquities, including monuments, sculptures, inscriptions and hero stones, and categorises them as protected or unprotected. The key ones are documented and geo-coordinated.

The respective deputy directors of the district will send a report to the deputy commissioner and the state government. If approved, the site will be declared a state-protected monument, allowing for legal enclosures and greater protection.

"Currently, there are over 25,000 unprotected monuments across the state, and the government alone cannot manage them. That is why we brought in the adoption scheme, where an interested person or a corporate entity can adopt an unprotected monument for over five years. Through semi-commercialising it by charging an entry fee, they can look after it," the commissioner stated.

FLIGHT PANGS

Chaos, anger at Bengaluru airport; guards claim 'all IndiGo flights' cancelled

Many travellers spend 48 hours at the airport

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Frustrated and clueless passengers swarmed Terminal 1 of Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport on Friday as IndiGo flight cancellations stretched into the fourth day.

India's largest airline cancelled a total of 292 flights at the city airport as of 7 pm, Friday, including 125 arrivals and 167 departures. Only 38 IndiGo flights took off from the airport on Friday evening.

IndiGo cancelled all flights from Bengaluru to Delhi and Mumbai until midnight.

Around 4 pm, security staff at the departure gates began asking IndiGo passengers to return home, claiming "all IndiGo flights have been cancelled for the next three to five days".

Passengers crowd in front of a counter following cancellation of IndiGo flights in Bengaluru, on Friday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

"When we questioned the security about the cancellations, one of the guards said that as IndiGO passengers were causing a ruckus inside, they had decided not to allow any more passengers," said an Ahmedabad-bound passenger.

While an IndiGo representative claimed that no such announcements had been made for the Bengaluru airport, an airport source stated that the cancellations mainly impacted passengers travelling to Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Pune.

Many passengers raised complaints about the last-minute cancellations after receiving no prior intimation from the airline.

A passenger flying to New Delhi was seen having a heated argument with the IndiGo ground staff about the lack of communication.

"They're saying that due to the sheer lack of cancellations, some cancellation messages might not have gone through. But what's amusing is that they're sending me messages if I enjoyed my flight. And this was for my flight they cancelled yesterday. My flight today was again cancelled. I slept at the airport last night," he told *DH*.

Similar arguments took place throughout the day, as passengers grew impatient — many having spent over 48 hours at the airport without their luggage The growing queue for a refund added to the chaos.

AN AHMEDABAD-BOUND PASSENGER

"When we questioned the security about the cancellations, one of the guards said that as IndiGO passengers were causing a ruckus inside, they had decided not to allow any more passengers.

Flyers left high & dry as IndiGo disruptions stretch into Day 4

Some miss funerals as airline offers little clarity

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

With IndiGo flight cancellations continuing for a fourth day, the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) remained in turmoil as stranded passengers searched for alternatives.

By Friday afternoon, this *DH* reporter found passengers affected by IndiGo's disruptions crowding every area near Terminal 1's departure gates.

Three friends returning from Tirupati were stranded for more than 24 hours without their luggage. "We are visiting from Bhopal. After Tirupati, we reached Bengaluru at 2 am on Thursday for a 12.30 pm connecting flight. IndiGo staff said we could leave and return by 10 am, but at 9.30 am, we were told our flight was cancelled. After 24 hours, we have no update about our luggage, which is still inside," said Abhishek Khatti.

Passengers said IndiGo staff presence was minimal throughout Friday.

"Occasionally, one or two officials stop by, take our PNR numbers, ask us to remain patient and leave. Not one official has given us any update," another passenger said.

Passengers recounted being forced to sleep at the airport as delays turned into cancellations, with little clarity from staff about hotel accommodation. Affected travellers included children and senior citizens.

Passengers stranded at Kempegowda International Airport amid flight cancellations, in Bengaluru, on Friday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

A mother-of-two said she planned to sue IndiGo for emotional and physical distress.

"With IndiGo's website down and slow network here, we have to queue at the counter for refunds. We have been stuck for over five hours. I have two toddlers and nearly had a panic attack seeing the chaos at the counters. No IndiGo employee has helped," said an Ahmedabad-bound passenger.

With flight prices soaring, many opted for overnight buses. Some said one-way tickets to Delhi, Kolkata or Mumbai cost Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000.

Some passengers marked birthdays and anniversaries at the airport, while others missed funerals of loved ones.

Two travellers from Mangaluru, heading for a funeral in Kolkata, took an overnight bus to the airport, only to find their flight cancelled on arrival.

Lack of information about cancellations and delays was the main complaint.

"They did not inform us our flight was cancelled. Now, they say there is no refund for our upcoming flights. How can we trust this airline? It is appalling they still sell tickets given the situation," said Ruchita, a Whitefield resident.

Throughout the day, angry passengers argued with IndiGo staff and airport security. Some staged small protests inside the terminal.

No flights: Newlywed attend reception virtually

HUBBALLI, DHNS

The disrupted IndiGo flight schedule played spoilsport with a reception ceremony that a couple had planned in Hubballi. Consequently, cancellation of their Hubballi-bound flight impelled them to participate in the event virtually.

Newlyweds Medha Ksheerasagar and Sangam Das, who tied the knot in Bhubaneswar on November 23, were scheduled to have a reception ceremony at the Gujarat Bhavan in Deshpande Nagar in Hubballi on December 3.

The two Bengaluru-based software engineers had booked a flight to Hubballi on December 2 but were informed that it was cancelled only on the morning of December 3.

Newlywed couple participate in their reception through video conferencing in Hubballi.

Medha's sister Anjana Ksheerasagar said that since the family had invited relatives and friends to the ceremony in Hubballi, they decided to go ahead with the event. "Medha and Sangam participated in the event, albeit virtually. Our parents took their position on the stage, while the newlyweds received the guests' blessings online," Anjana said.

NLSIU student bags coveted Rhodes Scholarship for 2026

BENGALURU, DHNS: Manhar Bansal, final-year LLB student at National Law School India University's (NLSIU), has bagged the coveted Rhodes Scholarship for 2026. Manhar is among the six students in the country to win the scholarship fully funded to pursue a post-graduate programme at the University of Oxford.

Manhar Bansal

A native of Muktsar in Punjab, Manhar will be heading to the University of Oxford in October 2026 to join the cohort of more than 100 scholars from around the world for fully funded post-graduate studies.

A final year BA LLB (Hons) student with an interdisciplinary focus in philosophy and literature, Manhar has published his academic writings and received recognition by the Society for Humanistic Anthropology and the South Asian Studies Association of Australia.

He intends to pursue Masters in Comparative Literature and Critical Translation. "I want to study literature and philosophy at Oxford. My degree at NLS is not just Law, but also the social sciences and the humanities," he told *DH*.

Relief for troubled IndiGo,...

IndiGo, From Page 1

As over 1,000 services were cancelled, including all flights from Delhi airport, on Friday, the Ministry of Civil Aviation stepped in to resolve the crisis "without compromising" on air safety, even as it hoped that the operations would begin to stabilise by Saturday.

The FTDL mandated 48 hours uninterrupted rest a week, only two consecutive night duties and other measures, which were implemented in two phases from July 1 and November 1. The new forms meant airlines had to hire flight more crew, which was on a slow pace in IndiGo that resulted in the collapse of its services.

In his statement, Naidu also announced a high-level inquiry into "what went wrong" at IndiGo, "determine accountability" wherever required for appropriate actions, and "recommend measures to prevent similar disruptions" in the future.

Asserting that the government is "fully alert to the difficulties" being faced by air passengers and remains in continuous consultation with airlines and all relevant stakeholders, he said every necessary measure, including regulatory relaxations as permitted by the DGCA, is being taken to stabilise airline operations and alleviate public inconvenience at the earliest.

Naidu said airlines have been instructed to provide regular and accurate updates through enhanced online information systems, enabling passengers to monitor real-time flight status from their homes. In case of any flight cancellations, the airlines will issue full refunds automatically, without the need for passengers to make any requests, while those who are stranded due to prolonged delays will be provided hotel accommodation by the airlines.

"Special priority is being accorded to senior citizens and differently abled. They will be provided lounge access and every possible assistance to ensure that their travel experience remains comfortable... refreshments and essential services will be provided to all passengers affected by delayed flights," he said.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has established a 24×7 Control Room -- 011-24610843, 011-24693963, 096503-91859 -- that is monitoring the situation on a real-time basis to ensure swift corrective action, effective coordination, and immediate resolution of issues as they arise, he added.

Earlier in the day, DGCA chief Faiz Ahmed Kidwai requested the cooperation of all pilots to ensure smooth flight operations amid massive IndiGo flight disruptions.

Russia vows steady fuel supply...

Russia, From Page 1

In a move to continue bilateral commerce despite sanctions by the US and the European Union on Russia, New Delhi and Moscow also agreed to jointly develop "systems of bilateral settlements through the use of national currencies" to ensure uninterrupted trade.

They also agreed to speed up negotiations for a mutually beneficial bilateral agreement to promote and protect investments. The two leaders noted the current and potential cooperation between Indian and Russian companies in fields like oil, refining, petrochemical technologies, oilfield services, LNG and LPG related infrastructure, existing projects, underground coal gasification technology and nuclear projects, according to a joint statement issued after the 23rd India-Russia summit.

The summit saw the two sides sign an MoU on cooperation in curbing irregular migration, as well as another to clear the way for Indians and Russians to engage in temporary labour activity in each other's countries. Putin shared with Modi his views on the 28-point peace plan Trump recently put forward to halt the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Modi said India had consistently advocated for peace in Ukraine and would continue to welcome all efforts being made for a peaceful and lasting resolution of the conflict.

"Over the past eight decades, the world has witnessed many ups and downs. Humanity has faced numerous challenges and crises. Yet, through all of these, the India-Russia friendship has remained as steady as the pole star," Modi said as he and Putin addressed reporters after the summit at Hyderabad House in New Delhi. "Built on mutual respect and deep trust, our relationship has stood the test of time."

"Our discussions on key global and regional issues have reaffirmed the similarity of our countries' positions. Russia and India pursue an independent and sovereign foreign policy," said Putin.

Trump had on August 6 announced an additional 25% tariff on India's exports to the US for buying Russian oil.

"Russia is a reliable supplier of energy resources and everything India needs for developing its energy sector. We are ready to continue ensuring uninterrupted fuel supplies for the Indian economy to support its rapid expansion," Putin said after meeting Modi, who noted: "Energy security has been a strong and vital pillar of the India-Russia partnership."

The prime minister said the programme for India-Russia economic cooperation by 2030, adopted by the two sides, would make the bilateral trade and investment "more diversified, balanced, and sustainable". "This comprehensive roadmap provides clear guidelines," Putin said, adding: "Our intergovernmental commission and the relevant economic ministries and agencies are tasked with removing barriers to the flows of goods and capital, implementing joint industrial projects, and deepening our collaboration in technology and investment."

India has been conveying to Russia its concerns over the trade deficit widening from $6.6 billion to $58.9 billion, along with a five-fold rise in bilateral trade from $13 billion in 2021 to $68 billion in 2024-25.

Putin noted that Russia and India had been conducting 96% of mutual transactions in national currencies, and the two countries had developed resilient interbank channels for lending and financial transactions.

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BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (only through KPP Portal)
BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.
Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	North West-1	BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/4085/ 2025-26 Dated: 05.12.2025	₹ 10,45,843/- / ₹ 64,300/-	20.12.2025 upto 5:00 pm	22.12.2025 after 5:15 pm
2.		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/4085/ 2025-26 Dated: 05.12.2025 (Reserved For ST Category)	₹ 49,85,200/- / ₹ 50,000/-		
3.		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/4085/ 2025-26 Dated: 05.12.2025	₹ 79,86,768/- / ₹ 1,60,000/-		
4.		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/4085/ 2025-26 Dated: 05.12.2025	₹ 19,88,823/- / ₹ 50,000/-		
5.		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/4085/ 2025-26 Dated: 05.12.2025 (Reserved For SC Category)	₹ 37,01,737/- / ₹ 37,100/-		
6.		BWSSB/EE(NW-1)/PB/4085/ 2025-26 Dated: 05.12.2025 (Reserved For CAT-I Category)	₹ 22,98,882/- / ₹ 23,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West-1)

7.	West-1	BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/4805/ 2025-26 Dated: 05.12.2025 (Reserved For CAT-I Category)	₹ 59,53,503/- / ₹ 59,600/-	16.12.2025 upto 4:00 pm	17.12.2025 after 4:30 pm
8.		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/4806/ 2025-26 Dated: 05.12.2025	₹ 60,66,684/- / ₹ 1,21,400/-		
9.		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/4807/ 2025-26 Dated: 05.12.2025 (Reserved For ST Category)	₹ 11,42,267/- / ₹ 14,300/-		
10.		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/4808/ 2025-26 Dated: 05.12.2025 (Reserved For SC Category)	₹ 28,02,776/- / ₹ 28,100/-		
11.		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/4809/ 2025-26 Dated: 05.12.2025 (Reserved For SC Category)	₹ 27,82,896/- / ₹ 27,900/-		
12.		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/4810/ 2025-26 Dated: 05.12.2025	₹ 37,22,936/- / ₹ 74,500/-		
13.		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/4801/ 2025-26 Dated: 05.12.2025	₹ 31,66,182/- / ₹ 63,400/-		
14.		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/4802/ 2025-26 Dated: 05.12.2025 (Reserved For CAT-II (A)	₹ 52,13,272/- / ₹ 52,200/-		
15.		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/4803/ 2025-26 Dated: 05.12.2025	₹ 64,70,520/- / ₹ 1,29,500/-		
16.		BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/4804/ 2025-26 Dated: 05.12.2025	₹ 55,41,548/- / ₹ 1,10,900/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-1)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/4249/CCL/2025-26

Govt eyes PSU profits to raise money for early-stage startups

Six state-owned enterprises with Rs 100 cr profit identified

MONEY MATTERS

Fund	Launch	Fund size	Startups	Exited	Exit value	Unexit value	Total
KITVEN	2000	Rs 15 cr	17	17	Rs 24.76 cr	-	Rs 24.76 cr
KITVEN-2	2008	Rs 26.25 cr	11	10	Rs 28.06 cr	Rs 7.8 cr	Rs 35.86 cr
Semicon VC	2015	Rs 92.95 cr	17	7	Rs 56.46 cr	Rs 60.71 cr	Rs 117.17 cr
KITVEN-3	2018	Rs 35.55 cr	7	-	-	Rs 76.68 cr	Rs 76.68 c
KITVEN-4	2021	Rs 20 cr	3	-	-	Rs 3.63 cr	Rs 3.63 cr
TOTAL		**Rs 189.75 cr**	**55**	**34**	**Rs 109.28 cr**	**Rs 148.82 cr**	**Rs 258.1 cr**

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka government is eyeing profits earned by public sector undertakings (PSU) to raise money for early-stage startups through two state-backed venture capital (VC) funds.

The government has allowed rich PSUs - those with a net profit exceeding Rs 100 crore - to invest in or subscribe to the fifth edition of the Karnataka Information Technology Venture Capital Fund (KITVEN) and the Beyond Bengaluru Cluster Seed Fund.

While KITVEN-5 is targeting a corpus of Rs 100 crore, the Beyond Bengaluru fund will have Rs 75 crore. The government estimates that the two funds can support 15-18 startups, creating 1,000-1,500 direct and indirect jobs.

The KITVEN-5 has already received investment commitments from the Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (Rs 25 crore), Karnataka State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd and the Karnataka State Finance Corporation (Rs 5 crore each). KITS has also committed Rs 20 crore to the Beyond Bengaluru fund.

The government wants to raise the remaining Rs 120 crore from other investors, including state PSUs.

Currently, profit-making PSUs are allowed to use their surplus funds on inter-corporate deposits, government bonds, fixed/term deposits with banks and government-backed mutual funds.

"Enabling state-owned PSUs to expand their financial reach to government-approved VC funds...will not only diversify risk and returns, but also provide more impetus and proliferate the growing needs of risk capital to startups," the government said in a policy document seen by *DH*.

"...the commitment received from state PSUs will not be drawn down upfront and will be drawn over a period of 3-4 years based on investment opportunities," the document states.

The government has identified six PSUs with a net profit of Rs 100 crore: Hatti Gold Mines Company Ltd, Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Ltd, Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Ltd, Karnataka State Beverages Corporation Ltd, Mysore Sales International Ltd, Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd and Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Ltd.

Launched in 2000, KITVEN has invested Rs 189.75 crore in 55 startups across sectors. KITVEN-1, KITVEN-2 and the Karnataka Semiconductor Venture Capital Fund have exited 34 startups with a value of Rs 109.28 crore against an investment of Rs 73.22 crore by subscribers, the document says.

KITVEN-3, for the biotechnology sector, has investments worth Rs 76.68 crore in seven startups. KITVEN-4, in the AVGC sector, is still making investments.

According to the government, KITVEN has contributed to the creation of 5,500 jobs.

Shivakumar discloses assets; declares Cartier wristwatches

Says he and CM have right to wear watches they like

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Friday went public with his latest assets declaration, according to which he owns two premium Cartier wristwatches worth Rs 35.96 lakh and another Rolex watch worth Rs 9 lakh.

This is from Shivakumar's declaration to the Lokayukta this October, which was released on Friday after Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy charged that his Cartier watch was unaccounted for.

Slamming the LoP, Shivakumar said on X (formerly Twitter): "Mr Narayanaswamy, here is my affidavit submitted to the Lokayukta. A person in a responsible position like you must not talk just for the sake of it. It won't bring honour to you. I am a transparent person and am telling the truth as I don't want to hide anything."

Shivakumar reiterated that both he and Siddaramaiah had the "right" to wear the watches of their liking. He asked Narayanaswamy to go to the Lokayukta office and check the affidavit himself.

The BJP has been attacking the CM and DCM for wearing "expensive" watches of the same company ever since they sported the said watches when they met for breakfast at Shivakumar's residence on Tuesday.

Earlier on Thursday, Narayanaswamy had challenged Shivakumar. Speaking to reporters, Narayanaswamy had said: "Wearing watches is fine and wearing watches of the same company is also fine. But why do you (Shivakumar) lie? He claimed to have submitted it in his affidavit. I checked his affidavit submitted to the election commission. Page no 38 mentions a Rolex watch (Rs 9 lakh) and Hublot watch (Rs 23.9 lakh). But what Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar are wearing are Cartier watches. Where have you declared it? Is this a stolen or bought asset?"

Despite Shivakumar's clarification, Narayanaswamy continued his attack on Friday, claiming that the Cartier watch hadn't been mentioned in Shivakumar's affidavit.

"Now you have informed the Lokayukta about the Cartier watch but it wasn't mentioned in the earlier affidavit. Even that's a crime."

Reacting to this, Shivakumar said: "Narayanaswamy is not experienced. I have filed details with the Lokayukta. My watch is here, my number will also be there. If I am lying, I will resign today itself. If not, will he resign? There should be some common sense while talking. Shouldn't just talk for publicity. I didn't want to show this but since he claimed that I had robbed it, I am answering."

Amid revenue shortfall fears, CM flags pan masala cess plan

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging the union government to share with the state half of the revenue collected from the proposed cess on pan masala.

Karnataka is already foreseeing a revenue shortfall of Rs 9,000 crore in the current fiscal due to GST rationalisation, Siddaramaiah stated. "...we had estimated that states would face a revenue loss of 15-20% of their GST receipts owing to the rate rationalisation and the non-merger of the compensation cess into the GST framework," Siddaramaiah stated.

Siddaramaiah said gross GST collections for November 2025-26 recorded a 2% decline compared with 9.3% growth in the corresponding period last year.

"The fact that even the festive month of October, which was characterised by peak consumption from Dasara and Deepavali, showed negative growth signals even more difficult months ahead," Siddaramaiah stated.

Karnataka recorded 3.1% growth in net GST collections (September to November 2025-26). "...based on current trends, we foresee a revenue shortfall of Rs 5,000 crore this year. For the entire financial year, this translates into Rs 9,000 crore of shortfall. This excludes the additional loss of approximately Rs 9,500 crore due to the non-merger of the compensation cess," he explained.

The financial strain is being borne by states, Siddaramaiah said, adding that the union government "is likely to be revenue-positive" due to the levy of excise duty on tobacco and cess on pan masala.

Referring to union government's plan to share the pan masala cess with states through a centrally-sponsored health scheme, Siddaramaiah said: "Such an arrangement would limit states' autonomy as these funds would not carry flexibility with untied tax revenues." He said his government "fully" supports taxing pan masala. But "imposition of a cess deprives states of their rightful share of revenue".

CM reviews targets

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday reviewed the commercial taxes department. The revenue target for the fiscal is Rs 1.2 lakh crore.

By November, the state had to collect Rs 80,000 crore. However, the net collection stands at Rs 72,131 crore. This includes Rs 53,522 crore of CGST, Rs 17,595 crore of SGST and Rs 1,014 crore of professional tax. Siddaramaiah also took stock of excise revenue. Against the target of Rs 40,000 crore, the government has collected Rs 26,215 crore.

Winners of dance competition (Junior Category) on Day 3 of DHiE Expressions 2025, organised by Deccan Herald in Education (DHiE) in association with the Bal Bhavan Society, in Bengaluru on Friday.
DH PHOTOS/M S MANJUNATH

Winners of dance competition (Senior Category).

Young dancers take centre stage at DHiE Expressions Day 3

BENGALURU, DHNS

Day 3 of DHiE Expressions 2025, organised by *Deccan Herald in Education* (DHiE), in association with the Bal Bhavan Society, brought Bal Bhavan alive with colour, rhythm and youthful energy as more than 350 students from schools across Bengaluru took the stage for the festival's dance finale.

The event featured two categories — junior and senior — with teams presenting choreographies on themes ranging from underwater pollution and substance abuse to Kanthara, patriotism, Operation Sindhoor and depression among youth.

The performances showcased not only technical skill but also the ability of young dancers to interpret social issues, folklore and emotions through movement.

Addressing the gathering, B R Naidu, Chairman of the Bal Bhavan Society, said platforms like DHiE Expressions give students the confidence to excel and explore their artistic potential. He added that such events strengthen cultural learning and provide young performers with valuable exposure.

The junior performers captivated the audience with their charm, coordination and spirited stage presence, earning warm appreciation from judges and spectators. Senior teams followed with powerful, theme-driven choreographies marked by precision, storytelling and expressive depth.

A vibrant display of costumes added to the visual experience — students appeared in glittery blue ensembles, red–black–white combinations, casual tux-inspired outfits, and traditional classical dance attire, each enhancing the mood of their respective performances.

The competition was judged by an eminent panel comprising Odissi dancer Madhulita Mohapatra, Prof. Nancy Abraham of Christ University, and contemporary dancer and choreographer Manoj Dupati. The jury noted the high level of creativity and teamwork on display, praising the dancers for their discipline and thematic clarity.

The day concluded with enthusiastic applause, marking a vibrant end to the three-day celebration of creativity, talent, and self-expression.

PRIZE WINNERS

Prize winners (Seniors)

First Prize
SREE AYYAPPA EDUCATION CENTRE CBSE
- Sadhika S Pillai
- Ashika A S
- H Nanditha
- Meghana Krishna M
- Maanya U K
- Anaga S
- Sanjana V Hiremath

Second Prize
SILICON CITY ACADEMY OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
- Urvee Soni
- Keerthana S
- Namana G
- Rithvika B S
- Lahari N Chandra
- Aditya Gowda
- Niladri

Third Prize
JUBILEE ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL, NRI LAYOUT
- Reeya
- Anika
- Hrithika
- Amaya
- Jessica
- Shrishti
- Prakruthi

Fourth Prize
GANGA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
- Kanasu D Gowda
- Prerana G B
- Ananya Singh
- Akul Rathod
- Susheel Kumar
- Akrith S S
- Surya Chakrvarthi

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE PRIZE BY BAL BHAVAN

Fifth Prize
MTB JNANA JYOTHI VIDYANIKETHAN
- Janvi S
- M Vani Shree
- Varnika B
- Tanmaya S
- Chandrika S Herur
- Changmma Chaitra
- Krishika Painuli

Sixth Prize
THE SOUTH SCHOOL
- Ghhanavi
- Veena
- Mokshagna
- Vismita
- Dhrusti
- Parinita
- Sagarika

JUNIOR

1st Prize
SILICON CITY ACADEMY OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
- Charitha S
- Poorvi D Begur
- Poojitha R Gowda
- G Monavi
- Adwika Saju
- Pratykasha

2nd Prize
SRI VIDYA MANDIR EDUCATION SOCIETY
- Ananya V
- Trisha C
- Samaya R
- Saakshi Satish Bhat
- Sharvari Upadya
- Lipiksha R
- Saara Balaji Iyengar

3rd Prize
EAST WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL
- Suprita Mal
- Niharika B K
- Hrutvi C
- Amulya A
- Nitya B
- Dhanushiya G
- Kanishka G

4th Prize
THE SOUTH SCHOOL
- Yajat
- Neha
- Mokshitha
- Shilpita
- Thiruveni
- Aanagha Anagha
- Punya

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE PRIZE BY BAL BHAVAN

5th Prize
JUBILEE ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL
- Aadhira
- Ishani
- Monisha
- Souparnika
- Akshatha

6th Prize
GANGA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
- Dhruthi H S
- Chakshushya A U
- Anvitha P
- Druthika V
- Dhruthika P Naik
- Pavani S
- Manish Kumar B S

1,777 acres in Devanahalli now 'permanent' agri zone

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Cabinet has decided to drop 1,777 acres of land in Channarayapatna, Devanahalli taluk, from the acquisition process for a defence and aerospace park. These lands will be declared as a 'permanent special agriculture zone'.

Farmers were against the acquisition of their lands. Their protest lasted 1,195 days until the government was forced to give in to their demand.

"The Cabinet decision is based on farmers' protests and their talks with the government," Law Minister H K Patil said.

However, some farmers were against declaring the region as a 'permanent special agriculture zone'. This means that farmers can sell their lands only for agricultural purposes.

DH
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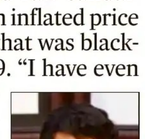
JD(S) MLA alleges Rs1,000-crore scam at KSDL

BENGALURU, DHNS: JD(S) MLA from KR Pet H T Manju has levelled allegations of a Rs 1,000-crore scam at the Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL).

Manju informed reporters in Bengaluru that KSDL had procured raw sandalwood oil at an inflated price from a firm that was blacklisted in 2019. "I have even written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah about this but neither has he replied to my letter nor has he initiated any action against anyone. KSDL has procured raw sandalwood oil at twice the actual cost. A sum of more than Rs 1,000 crore has been misappropriated," said Manju.



H T Manju

The MLA sought a probe into the allegations by a Special Investigation Team. "I will raise this issue on the floor of the House in the upcoming Winter Session of the state legislature in Belagavi," he added.

OBITUARY

Birth 24.06.1928 — Death 26.11.2025

Prof. G.K. NARAYANA REDDY
Former Vice Chancellor, Karnatak University, Dharwad
Founding Member, Ex-President, Mentor
Janatha Education Society, Bengaluru

Deeply mourned by

JES Members, Management, Principals & Staff of
Vivekananda Educational Institutions
Vivekananda Institute of Technology - VKIT
Vivekananda College of Pharmacy
Vivekananda Institute of Management
Vivekananda Degree College (Main Campus, Women's Campus)
Vivekananda College of Law
Vivekananda College of Education
Vivekananda PU College (Main, Women's, VKIT Campus) | Vivekananda Schools (Main, VKIT Campus)

MP Brijesh Chowta flags PFI's bid to enter electoral politics through SDPI

KARNATAKA in PARLIAMENT

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Dakshina Kannada BJP MP Captain Brijesh Chowta on Friday said the banned organisation Popular Front of India's (PFI) backdoor entry into electoral politics poses a direct threat to national security.

Raising the matter during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, he alleged that the PFI may be regrouping through the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) to re-enter public life.

He also criticised the ruling Congress government in Karnataka, stating that its tacit understanding with the SDPI had enabled the outfit to amplify its presence in local electoral politics.

Captain Chowta charged that it supported opposition candidates in key positions, such as the election for the president of the Bantwal Town Municipal Council last year. "Congress has consistently fostered such forces and remained unapologetic about its ties with the SDPI and PFI. This nexus has endangered communities, undermined security, and allowed radical elements to thrive."

Referring to an Enforcement Directorate press release dated November 8, 2025, Captain Chowta said the agency had reported that the SDPI functioned as the "political front of PFI", with the banned organisation "controlling, funding and supervising" its activities.

He described the disclosure as a "credible and significant development" that should prompt stronger monitoring mechanisms.

He urged the Union home minister to examine the ED's findings and take steps to prevent banned organisations from resurfacing under new identities or using political parties as fronts to gain electoral legitimacy.

"PFI is a banned organisation. Any covert channel that allows it to influence elections undermines the unity and integrity of the country," he said.

Drawing attention to developments in his home district Dakshina Kannada, Captain Chowta noted that the district and neighbouring regions had "paid a huge price" for PFI's organisational networks.

With local body elections approaching in Karnataka, he said the issue required "urgent attention".

MP demands direct train between Bengaluru and Kolar

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Kolar JD(S) Lok Sabha member M Mallesh Babu on Friday urged the Union government to start a direct train service between Bengaluru and Kolar.

Speaking during the Zero Hour, he said, "Thousands of people travel daily from Kolar to Bengaluru for jobs and education. In the absence of a direct train, they face severe hardship. They are forced to travel via Bangarapete, which wastes a lot of time."

"The Kolar–Whitefield direct rail project (52 km) was approved in 2012, and the survey has also been completed. Yet, even after 13 years, there has been no progress for this project. The railway minister must immediately pay attention and start the train service," he said.

He also pointed out that trains going to Bengaluru via Bangarapete–KGF are heavily overcrowded every day. The trains currently have only 12 coaches. The number of coaches must be increased to 18."

Bidar MP seeks special package for N-K farmers

Bidar Congress MP Sagar Khandre urged the central government to announce a relief package to help farmers who have suffered huge losses due to excessive rainfall and floods in North Karnataka.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, he said, "As per the existing government rules, compensation is Rs 7,000 per acre for irrigated land and Rs 3,500 per acre for non-irrigated land. This amount is nowhere near sufficient for the farmers. The government must re-examine these norms and provide additional compensation."

CM, Ashoka spar over 2019 report on corruption

Brouhaha over Upa Lokayukta report

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday rescinded his tweet on Thursday where he had said that it was Upa Lokayukta B Veerappa's 2019 report that mentioned 63% corruption in Karnataka and maintained that the charge was based on a report from 2019 when the B S Yediyurappa-led BJP government was in power.

In a new statement on Friday, Siddaramaiah said Veerappa was quoting a 2019 Transparency International India report.

Siddaramaiah's tweets were in response to an attack by Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka, who had played parts of Veerappa's recent speech in a press conference on Thursday.

The chief minister shared a video clip on his X (formerly Twitter) account, where Veerappa told a national media house that he had spoken based on the Transparency International India 2019 report.

"The BJP leaders, in their hurry to attack us, have only exposed their own record. From the 40% commission regime to COVID procurement scam, irrigation project illegalities, and cases where even their own workers levelled charges – BJP's corruption track record needs no introduction," he claimed.

Ashoka hits back

Hitting back, Ashoka said the 2019 report was based on a survey done in 2018 when the Congress was in power.

"How many times will you repeat the same lie, CM@Siddaramaiah avare? Yes, the report was released in 2019, but the survey was done for the previous year, 2018, when you were the chief minister and your @INCKarnataka govt was looting Karnataka. So, the 63% corruption figure you're shouting about is actually a report card of your own argument, not ours," he said.

Shivakumar holds talks with Priyank, Satish Jarkiholi

Nothing political, says DKS on meetings

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's separate meetings with his Cabinet colleagues Priyank Kharge and Satish Jarkiholi have created political buzz.

On Friday morning, Priyank, the IT/BT Minister who is in touch with top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, visited Shivakumar's Sadashivanagar residence and held talks.

On Thursday night, Shivakumar met Satish on the sidelines of a wedding they attended and talked. This was their second meeting in less than two weeks.

"It is true that Satish Jarkiholi and I met at a wedding last evening. We discussed the state and the party. We are colleagues, why do you paint us as enemies?" Shivakumar told reporters.

"We may attend a Cabinet meeting together in the afternoon and then catch up for dinner in the evening. Or, we may meet for breakfast in the morning. Friendships and bonding are common in politics," he said.

Earlier in the day, Shivakumar met Industries Minister M B Patil on the sidelines of the inauguration of a new KIADB office.

The seers of various mutts of Backward Classes meet D K Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Friday.

"I spoke to Patil for about an hour. We discussed several aspects on attracting investors and facing competition from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Telangana is also holding a global summit soon. We discussed how to compete at the global level. It is natural for Cabinet colleagues to discuss state's progress," Shivakumar said.

Meanwhile, a delegation of seers from backward communities met Shivakumar and 'blessed' him on Friday. The delegation had seers from the Idiga, Chalavadi, Kumbara, Vishwakarma, Uppara, Hoogara, Hadapada, Ganiga, Nekara, Valmiki and Koli communities.

Notice to Ivan, Mithun

AICC general secretary Roji M John, who is in charge of the party's affairs in the Mysuru division, has issued show-cause notices to MLC Ivan D'Souza and 2019 Dakshina Kannada Lok Sabha candidate Mithun Rai.

Earlier this week, during AICC general secretary K C Venugopal's visit to Mangaluru, Ivan raised slogans in favour of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah while Mithun was vocal for Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

The party has viewed this as a breach of discipline, reeking of factionalism.

National Herald case: Delhi police issue notice to DKS

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Delhi police have issued a notice to Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar seeking financial and transactional details as part of its probe into the National Herald case, an official said on Friday.

The notice issued by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) stated that Shivakumar is "supposed to have vital information" pertaining to the National Herald case registered on October 3 this year, against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

DCM D K Shivakumar

In the notice dated November 29, the EOW has asked Shivakumar to appear before it or provide the requested information by December 19 latest.

Personal background

Investigators have sought details about his personal background, his association with the Congress party, and a complete break-up of funds allegedly transferred by him or associated entities to Young Indian.

Sources close to Shivakumar said he is being targeted for "not playing ball" with the BJP, and this underscores that he is among the key leaders "taking the hit" for Congress.

They further said Shivakumar is the "most persecuted" among Congress leaders, but the BJP will not succeed in "breaking him".

HC full bench quashes provisional allotment in MBBS, BDS third-round counselling

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

A full bench of the Karnataka High Court on Friday set aside the October 24 provisional allotment list pertaining to the third round of counselling for MBBS and BDS seats.

The three-judge bench comprising Justices B M Shyam Prasad, M I Arun and T M Nadaf passed this order while partly allowing the petitions filed by a batch of students. It also issued a series of directions to the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

These petitions were referred to the three-judge bench after a division bench delivered a split verdict.

The full bench has directed the KEA to allot the an additional 443 seats to eligible candidates based on options already entered. It must also allot any remaining seats not filled in the first stage. In the next stage, the KEA has to allot the consequential 377 seats and any seats still unfilled after the first two processes.

The entire process shall be completed by December 17, 2025, the bench said.

Directions to NMC

The full bench directed the National Medical Commission (NMC) to consider granting approval for the list submitted by the KEA in terms of directions issued by the high court, notwithstanding any delay.

It further said that when the NMC proposes an additional intake for the next academic year and the state publishes a seat matrix for such additional seats, it must consider the expectations of increased seat allotment in the current academic year.

"This bench cannot but observe that the NMC, while granting approvals for additional seats, must find out whether the counselling has begun, and if the counselling has begun, must stipulate that these additional seats cannot be offered for the current academic year in view of Regulation 17 of GMER-23. Further, this bench must observe that the state government in issuing/publishing seat matrix, must know the exacerbation that is bound to be if all aspects are not considered, and they must take decisions within time as required in law lest the exacerbation is continued to be created in the coming years," the bench said.

Background

On November 19, a division judge comprising Justices Jayant Banerji and K V Aravind had delivered divergent verdicts.

The petitioners had contended that after the second round, through different notifications, the KEA had added 443 seats for the third round of counselling. However, the notifications restricted the participation of the petitioners, who were allotted in the first two rounds, to only the added seats.

Justice Banerji set aside the third-round provisional seat allotment list of candidates and directed the KEA to conduct the third round of counselling afresh, strictly as per Supreme Court directions in the case of Bhavna Tiwari.

However, Justice Aravind noted that the petitioners, who were selected in the first two rounds and were presently pursuing their undergraduate MBBS course, seeking reallotment without challenging the governing conditions would deprive candidates, who are otherwise eligible for admission against the available vacancies in third round and the stray vacancy round.

Justice Aravind further said that the admitted candidates were permitted to make option entries in round 3/mop-up only against the newly added seats in the nine colleges and that the candidates accepted these conditions and made their option entries accordingly.

K'taka aims Top-5 spot in int'l tourist visits by 2029: HK Patil

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Department of Tourism hosted the first edition of the Karnataka Centre for Cultural Diplomacy (KCCD) Conclave at the Vidhana Soudha on Friday.

Aimed at improving Karnataka's tourism and international engagement, the conclave brought together heads of diplomatic missions, senior government leaders and global tourism stakeholders.

Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation and Tourism H K Patil reiterated Karnataka's ambitious goals under the Tourism Policy 2024–29, which focuses on global positioning, sustainable development, safety and security and spreading tourism-led prosperity to every district of the state.

"We are committed to positioning Karnataka among the top five states for international tourist visits by 2029," he said, inviting diplomatic missions to collaborate through exchanges, cultural showcases, and youth engagement programs.

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh emphasised Karnataka's growing global stature and its vision to position tourism as a gateway to international ties.

"The government of Karnataka views tourism not merely as an economic activity but as a core component of our global outreach and soft power. This conclave marks a decisive step in positioning Karnataka as a globally admired and culturally vibrant destination," she stated.

Highlighting Bengaluru's emergence as the Global Capability Centre (GCC) Capital of the World, the chief secretary noted that tourism naturally follows trade and investment, and the "state is strategically converting business visits into immersive travel opportunities."

She outlined the state's priority on MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) tourism, world-class connectivity, safety and experiential tourism.

The work to replace the old and obsolete crest gates with new ones at Tungabhadra dam, near Hosapete, started on Friday. The Ahmedabad-based Hardware Tools & Machinery Projects Ltd has bagged the contract to replace all 33 gates at Rs 52 crore. DH PHOTO

Process to replace crest gates of TB dam set in motion

HOSAPETE (VIJAYANAGAR DISTRICT), DHNS

Ahmedabad-based Hardware Tools & Machinery Projects Ltd set in motion the process to replace all 33 old and obsolete crest gates of the Tungabhadra (TB) reservoir near Hosapete on Friday.

The officials of the company, which bagged the contract for Rs 52 crore, arrived at the dam site and offered puja on Friday.

The company will, however, take up full-fledged work to replace the gates only after the water level in the dam goes below the crest gate level. The current storage in the dam stands at 67 tmcft and the work will begin after the storage level goes below 40 tmcft. The work, In all likelihood, will begin in full swing by the month-end.

According to Tungabhadra Board officials, a total of 15 gates are ready for installation and the remaining 18 gates will be manufactured in another three months.

The officials said that it would take seven days to remove the old gate and another seven days to install a new one. It would take at least six months to replace all 33 gates.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF JOHN DOE ORDER

Please be informed that after considering the submissions made on behalf our client **Mr. BRIJESH PATEL,** S/o Late Shri Pursuram Patel, Aged about 72 years, Residing at No. 19, Lavelle Road, Bengaluru – 560001, the **Hon'ble City Civil Court, in OS 8546/2025,** has issued an **interim injunction (John Doe Order).** This order restrains anyone, including but not limited to the named defendants, from making any negative, denigrating, or defamatory statements against the plaintiff, **Shri Brijesh Patel.** You are hereby advised to exercise restraint and comply with this order accordingly. Any violation will be considered willful disobedience, inviting serious consequences including contempt of court and criminal prosecution.

Dr. Vandana P. L. Advocate
Mob. No. 80959 44747
Email - proclientlsi@gmail.com

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
(ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳ ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ–I, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಕಾಳಿದಾಸ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಗಾಂಧಿನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560009, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–22205239.
ಸಂ. ವಿಹೆಚ್‌ಟಿ/ಸಿಆರ್–60/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.12.2025
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಜಂಟಿ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು (ಆಡಳಿತ), ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಸರಕು ಮತ್ತು ಸೇವಾ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ– 3, ಟಿ.ಟಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಶಾಂತಿನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಒಳಾವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಶುದ್ಧ ಗಾಳಿಯನ್ನು (Providing of Centralized Air Conditioning System (Service Installation & commissioning) ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.12.2025 ರಂದು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ವಿಹೆಚ್‌ಟಿ/ಸಿಆರ್–60/2025–26 (CTD/2025-26/IND0006) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **20.12.2025**ರ ಸಂಜೆ **5.00** ರವರೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ರಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/– ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಉನಿ–ಪಿ.ಪಿ/4228/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಪಿಎ/2025–26

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)
No: 908/BGKT/SE(E)/AEE(C)/Tr.(Projects)Circle/2025-26/3621-30 Date: 04.12.2025
KPTCL invites short-term tenders on electronic mode for the following work.
Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 2865/CALL-2** Tender for providing Area fencing to the KPTCL of proposed New 400kv sub-station Yalawar (KIADB Mulawad).
The detailed notification regarding participation in the KPP Portal can be obtained by logging on to Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **06.12.2025, 05.30 p.m.** Other details can be had from the office of the under signed during office hours.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Elec.), Transmission (Projects) Circle, KPTCL, Zonal Offices Complex, Opposite Sector No. 45, Navanagara, Bagalkote.

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Public Works, Department, Sirasi Division(U.K), Karnataka Ph: 08384-223164, Fax: 08384-224100
No. PWD/SR./Dn/AE/IFT/3054 SH/2025-26/02632 Date: 02.12.2025
INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (SHORT TERM) KW-4
e-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(1) The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. **The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (26.03.2021)** (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors: (3) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4) Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the eprocurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division. (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents
(Total: 1 Work)
(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **09-12-2025 up to 16.00.00** (2) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders: **10-12-2025 up to 16.00.00** (3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid: **11-12-2025 @ 16.30.00** (4) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid: **12-12-2025 @16.00.00**
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Public Work Department Division
Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)
DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/801/25-26 Dt.05.12.2025

SAINIK SCHOOL KODAGU (KARNATAKA)
VILLAGE - KUDIGE, KUSHALNAGAR, PIN: 571 232
RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION NO : 05/ NOV 2025
1. Sainik School Kodagu, an autonomous institution functioning under Sainik Schools Society, Ministry of Defence, invites applications from the eligible candidates (Indian Citizens Only) for the Contractual posts as mentioned below:-

Sl.No.	Name of the Post	No. of Posts & Category
(a)	Art Master	UR X 01
(b)	Ward Boy (male or female)	UR X 03

2. For detailed Notification and Application Form, visit School website **www.sainikschoolkodagu.edu.in** from 06 Dec 2025. The School administration reserves the right to cancel the vacancy due to administrative reasons.
-Sd/-
PRINCIPAL

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2025-26/5154 DATE: 04/12/2025
Short term/E-Tender Notification
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise short term e-Tenders from Registration in KPWD and Registration in Labour Department authorized by Karnataka Government for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 5 works under head of account 3054-SH Maintenance-Maintenance Vecch and 5 works under head of account 3054-MDR Maintenance-Maintenance Vecch, Totally 10 No. of works. Amount put to tender is minimum of Rs. 6.72 Lakhs and maximum of Rs. 33.60 lakhs.
Calendar of events:
1) Last date for queries & clarifications : 10-12-2025 up to 5.30 PM, 2) Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 12-12-2025 up to 5.00 PM, 3) Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 15-12-2025 at 4.30 PM, 4) Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 5) If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.
For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1439/KSMCA/2025-26

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION
Karnataka State Health & Family Welfare Society
Arogya Soudha, 1st Floor, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 23
Ph: 080-23113584 e-mail: pdrch-hfws@karnataka.gov.in
No: NHM/SBC/NSCAEM/23/2024-25 (e-1552352) Date: 06.12.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement)
"Procurement and Supply of Sickle Cell Anemia ID Card under NSCAEM - State Blood Cell (SBC)"
National Health Mission (NHM) invites Request for proposal from eligible Manufacturer/Authorized Distributor with necessary documents. Tender notification for **"Procurement and Supply of Sickle Cell Anemia ID Card under NSCAEM - State Blood Cell (SBC)"**.
Tender No: NHM/2025-26/IND0032/Call-3
The detailed notification regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. The invitation for tender document can be downloaded through "e-procurement portal" from **05/12/2025** onwards and last date for receipt of tender is on or before **15/12/2025 at 05.30pm.**
Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours from 11:00 am to 05:30 pm.
Sd/-
Project Director (RCH)
DIPR/CP/4235/SA/2025-26

Public Works Department,
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD Bengaluru Division, 2nd Floor,
PWD Annexure Building, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001
Ph: **080-22133370,** website: **www.kpwd.karnataka.gov.in**
Short Tender Notification No. 40/2025-26 Date: 04.12.2025
Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, **Devanahalli, Nelamangala & Hoskote Sub Division** under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification is Published for **06 works (Rs. 6.00 Lakhs to Rs. 79.00 Lakhs).** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP Portal.**
1. Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal **on or before 4.00 PM on 12.12.2025.**
2. The opening of tenders through KPP Portal **on 15.12.2025 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be intimated.

For more details contact this office.
DIPR/DD-CP/4224/KSMCA/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)
KPTCL invites bids for the following works.
No: CEE/Tr(Op)ZH/SEE(O)/AEE-2/FA-54&A56/2025-26/10566-67 Date: 04.12.2025
1) Work Indent No.: KPTCL/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT 2846/CALL-2
For Associated work pertaining to Replacement of 1X10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer by 1X20MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer at 110/33/11kV **Bhadravathi** sub-station in Bhadravathi Taluk, Shivamogga District **on PTK Basis "Work code CD1112 (Reserved for category-1)"**
No: CEE/Tr(Op)ZH/SEE(O)/AEE-3/F-Aux Trans 01/ 2025-26/10550-51 Date: 04.12.2025
2) Work Indent No.: KPTCL/2025-26/IND0252 For Design, Manufacturing, testing and Supply of **12 Nos. of 5 Star rated (Energy Efficiency Level-3), 100kVA, 11kV/0.433kV, 3phase, Dy11 Copper winding LT Transformers** required at various sub-stations in Transmission (Operation) Zone, Hassan, conforming to KPTCL Technical Specifications, at Store/Site basis, including all applicable taxes, insurance and transportation"
The bids will be received through e-Procurement mode only. Detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the tendering process can be obtained by logging on to e-Portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **06.12.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Elec.),
Transmission (Op) Zone, KPTCL, 3rd Floor,
Prasarana Bhavana, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan - 573201.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Cure must not be worse than disease

The state government's decision to introduce the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025, marks a bold yet contentious intervention in an age where public discourse is often poisoned by hostility and prejudice. As the society becomes increasingly polarised, the State argues that existing criminal laws are inadequate to address the complexities of modern hate speech, particularly online vitriol. The Bill offers a more comprehensive framework, but one that carries significant risks if not tempered with constitutional safeguards. At the heart of the proposed law are clear and expanded definitions. 'Hate speech' covers spoken, written, visual, or electronic expressions made in public with the intention to cause injury, disharmony, or hatred against individuals or groups on an exhaustive list of grounds: religion, caste, race, language, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability, tribe, place of birth, and residence. 'Hate crime' includes the communication, propagation, or abetment of such speech. The punishments are steep—with a minimum one-year imprisonment extending up to seven years, and repeat offenders facing up to 10 years. Offences are cognisable and non-bailable, and courts may award compensation to victims.

By defining hate speech explicitly, Karnataka goes beyond central law—and into contested territory

The Bill goes beyond existing central laws in several ways. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) retains provisions akin to the old IPC sections on promoting enmity, but it does not define hate speech as a standalone offence. The Bill does so explicitly, widening the list of protected grounds, enhancing penalties, and granting greater authority to the police. Importantly, it directly regulates digital intermediaries by empowering a designated officer to block or remove online material, something the BNS leaves largely to the IT Act. However, it is precisely these expansive powers that raise concerns about misuse. The definitions rely on inherently subjective terms such as 'ill-will' or 'injury', creating a wide scope for interpretation. In the hands of an overzealous or partisan administration, such provisions risk being deployed against critics, journalists, or political opponents. By classifying the offences as non-bailable, the law makes arrest easier, and increases the likelihood of punitive action even before trial. Experience shows that the process can become the punishment.

The Supreme Court's Kedar Nath Singh judgment — though in the context of sedition—laid down a guiding principle: restrictions on speech must be linked to incitement to violence or an imminent threat to public order, not merely to expressions that cause discomfort or disapproval. Any state law on hate speech must adhere to this constitutional threshold. Karnataka is right to confront the dangers of hate speech. But in doing so, it must ensure that the cure does not become worse than the disease.

Mayhem at airports exposes multiple flaws

The chaos at the airports, caused by large-scale flight delays and cancellations by IndiGo, India's largest airline by market share, is the result of poor management of crew deployment norms and flight schedules, and the entire responsibility for the disruptions should go to the airline. In the last few days, over 1,000 flights of the airline, which operates about 1,500 daily flights, were affected by delays and cancellations. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had last year revised the Flight Duty Time Limitations, and proposed new norms which increased weekly rest periods, changed the definition of night duty, and imposed stricter caps on night operations. Compliance was expected by June, but implementation was deferred to a phased rollout from July 1 to November 1. But this was not done, and the current confusion has arisen from this. The increased winter demand for more schedules added to the problem.

Airlines had more than a year to prepare for the new rules, but it is now clear that implementation was not taken seriously. India's civil aviation sector has seen big growth in the last few years, and it was necessary to introduce global norms and best practices to ensure the safety of passengers and the crew. Pilot fatigue is a major problem even in the best-managed airlines, and it leads to human error and accidents. The new norms called for enhanced crew hiring and training programmes by the airlines. Airlines in India have seen high fleet growth. These need to be supported by an adequate crew and other facilities for providing the best service to passengers. The pilots' union has said that "prolonged and unorthodox lean manpower strategy across all departments, particularly inflight operations" has led to the current situation. The airline has been accused of imposing a hiring freeze, and the union has urged the DGCA not to approve airlines' seasonal flight schedules unless they have adequate staff to operate their services "safely and reliably". It has also accused IndiGo of arm-twisting the DGCA to dilute the norms. The DGCA has rolled back some orders, but their effect is yet to be seen.

IndiGo is responsible for airport chaos, DGCA for sleeping at the wheel

The Indian civil aviation sector is under a duopoly with IndiGo and Air India operating over 90% of all domestic flights. More airlines and better competition among them might have helped to avoid such a situation in which passengers are sitting ducks and are hugely inconvenienced. The problem should be resolved at the earliest, and passengers should be spared inconvenience and suffering. The DGCA's appointment of a four-member committee to review the circumstances leading to this chaos is a good move, but it is at fault for not monitoring the implementation of the new norms, which were in the interest of the industry and the passengers.

URBAN GOVERNANCE

Our cities deserve mayors who can truly lead

In India, city leadership is stifled by State-controlled agencies and ceremonial mayoral roles

A RAVINDRA

What is the role of the mayor in governing a city? In several countries, the mayor is the chief executive of the city government, vested with executive powers. He derives his powers from the people of the city, as he is elected directly by them. The recent election of Zohran Mamdani as mayor of New York City attracted worldwide attention, not only because he was directly elected by the people, but also because, as a Democrat, he secured an overwhelming majority against a candidate backed by the US President's dominant Republican Party.

In India, urban governance is marked by a multiplicity of authorities, including a municipal council, with little accountability. While the municipal council is an elected body, most others — water supply board, electricity distribution company, road transport corporation, metro rail transport corporation, and infrastructure development corporation — are parastatal agencies controlled by the state government. Even the elected council does not enjoy sufficient autonomy.

City governance in India is fragmented, with divided responsibility and minimal co-ordination. Beyond challenges such as inadequate resources and professional manpower, poor planning and expanding urban sprawl, the system lacks leadership. The mayor, supposed to lead the city, lacks executive authority, and is more of a ceremonial head with short tenures, ranging from one to two-and-a-half years.

In the UK, the US, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, or Indonesia, the mayor is directly elected by the people for a period of five years, and enjoys executive powers. The mayor is recognised as the city's leader, and represents it at important events, and is empowered to make key decisions. For example, Mamdani met Trump even before assuming office. Can we imagine the mayor of Bengaluru, Mumbai, or Chennai meeting the prime minister? In India, it is the chief ministers who present the cities' needs to the prime minister.

Consider what an empowered mayor can accomplish. Michael Bloomberg, the New York mayor for three consecutive terms from 2001, launched 'PlaNYC-a Greener and Greater New York' to fight global warming and protect the city's environment. His 'Million Trees NYC' initiative cut greenhouse gas emissions by ~20%.

Ken Livingstone, London's mayor from 2000 to 2008, reshaped transport policy by introducing 'congestion charges', which reduced traffic and pollution in central London. In 2002, Seoul's mayor Lee Myung-bak took a bold decision to remove an expressway in the city's heart, restoring a stream by diverting water from the Han River and creating a beautiful waterfront.

After 9/11, when New York faced an unprecedented crisis, it was Mayor Rudy Giuliani who became the city's face. He appeared daily on TV, explaining rescue operations, outlining recovery measures, and instilling confidence among people. Neither the governor of New York nor the US President played that role.

Can we think of any instance where the mayor has brought about a major change in a city in India? Hardly. This is not due to a lack of capability, but because the system does not provide the environment for city leadership to flourish. In the current system, the powers of the chief executive of the municipal corporation are vested in the commissioner, who is an appointee of the state government. Also, fragmented responsibilities spread across statutory authorities working in silos provide no focal point for city leadership.

Empowering the mayor is a much-needed reform, which can help improve urban governance in India. This must, however, be done in conjunction with other reforms, primarily decentralisation of powers to the municipal authorities as envisaged under the 74th constitutional amendment, including fiscal decentralisation, inducting professional manpower to discharge technical and administrative functions, and clarity of responsibilities.

In his thought-provoking book, If Mayors Ruled the World, Benjamin R Barber, American author and political theorist who served as adviser to Bill Clinton, has argued that cities and mayors who run them are the best forces of good governance, and that cities which are not burdened with issues of borders and sovereignty are better equipped to meet the challenges of our times like terrorism, climate change, drug trafficking, and poverty, than nation states which are becoming dysfunctional. City-to-city collaborations and continent-spanning urban networks 'constitute a layer of global governance with a transformative impact on urban and global problems'. He cites the example of the C40 Cities, a global network of nearly 100 cities where the mayors are unitedly confronting the climate crisis and are committed to using an inclusive and collaborative approach to cut their share of emissions by half by 2030.

It is important to realise that visionary leadership is crucial to the task of fixing our cities — from potholes and garbage to traffic congestion, pollution, and poor infrastructure. This can be achieved only by a mayor elected by the people and empowered to deliver goods. The mayor can be assisted by a council, on the lines of a Cabinet, to discharge various responsibilities. A system of checks and balances must be evolved as a safeguard against misuse of power and to ensure accountability.

The potential for city leadership in India is vast. Tikender Singh Panwar, who served as Shimla's deputy mayor, has authored three books on urbanisation, reflecting on urban issues. Looking beyond the present, he says: 'Cities must transition from being sites of extraction to being ecological habitats, embedded within regional water cycles, local food systems and circular economy. This requires rethinking value... where life, health, and ecology determine policy design'. Here is a vision for a city. To translate this into action, he needs to be empowered.

If Mamdani's election has any lesson for India, it is the empowerment of a directly elected mayor to design a better future for its cities.

(The writer is a former chief secretary, Government of Karnataka)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Shielded from *Mehbooba*

Sholay is unforgettable, my father's quiet guardianship even more so

MUSHTAQUE AHMED S MULLA

Half a century ago, Hubballi was quieter, far from the bustling city it has become today. Back in 1975, when *Sholay* was released, it ruled Ajanta Theatre for a full year, drawing crowds with unmatched magic. For the first time, a special music and dialogue disc player was released, and during weddings or festive gatherings, its powerful lines echoed in the streets. People would stand by the roadside, spellbound for 45 minutes, carried away by its timeless charm.

When *Sholay* was released in Hubballi, I was in Class 7 and had never seen such electrifying excitement—from youngsters to adults alike. Everywhere, people repeated Gabbar Singh's iconic line, *Kitne aadmi the*? as though it were part of everyday speech. Colourful posters brightened walls, tea stalls, and street corners. One of my childhood friends, brimming with enthusiasm, narrated the entire film scene by scene, humming its melodies along the way. Such was the magic of *Sholay*—a cinematic storm that swept the nation and hypnotised millions.

Hearing the excitement around me, I longed to witness this greatest show. Back then, children rarely went to the cinema without elders. But the spell of *Sholay* proved stronger. One day, my mother surprised me—asking me to come home straight from school, as my father would take me to see it. My heart leapt. After school, I hurried home, and soon we were on his bicycle, heading to Ajanta Theatre. I still remember spotting the ticket price—Rs 1.65—while inching forward in the queue. Sitting beside my father in that darkened hall felt special beyond words. Because of the film's length, a Boost advertisement was screened first. Then came the censor certificate announcing the 23 reels of the cinematic adventure of a lifetime.

During the interval, my father led me to the snack stall. Barely five minutes later, the air was filled with the electrifying beats of *Mehbooba Mehbooba*. My heart urged me back to my seat, but he sipped his tea unhurriedly. By the time we returned, the song was over. Years later, when I watched it again, I understood—he had quietly shielded my young eyes from what he felt wasn't for me. Ah, the guardianship of those golden-era—so protective, so pure.

Today, the grand cinema halls of our youth have surrendered to time, transforming into glittering malls, leaving only a few as silent witnesses of the past. Recently, I visited Sapna Book Stall, near the site of the old Ajanta Theatre, where *Sholay* once roared to life. Ajanta stands no more—only an open patch of ground remains.

As I stood there, memories rose like a tide. I found myself searching the emptiness, almost locating the seat where my father and I sat together, his warm presence beside me. It felt as though it were only yesterday—sharing laughter, awe and the magic of *Sholay*. Fifty years on, the film lives on—and so does my father, in the golden light of that cherished memory.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Insensitive approach to a senseless exercise

Apropos 'The human cost of SIR must not be overlooked' (Dec 4), the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls undertaken in nine states and three Union Territories has caused distress, putting immense pressure on ground-level officials and even driving some booth-level officers to suicide. This is an insensitive approach to a senseless exercise by the Election Commission of India, which appears all too keen to serve the interests of the ruling dispensation. If the Bihar experience is anything to go by, the chaos the current Special Revision covering over 50 crore people is to be completed in three months is anybody's guess. The ECI, with its diminished credibility, will do well to realise that the SIR is a remedy worse than the disease, and its intent remains suspect.

M Basavaraj, Davangere

Good for India

Apropos 'Putin begins high profile India visit amid West's glare' (Dec 5), Prime Minister Narendra Modi's gesture of waiving protocol to greet the Russian president personally, could have a positive impact on future ties between India and Russia. While the bonhomie between the two leaders is likely to turn into an eyesore for countries like the US, China, and the European Union, which have frowned on the increasing proximity between India and Russia, the visit of a high-profile delegation, including the Russian Defence Minister, will prove beneficial for India, as the possibility of signing defence deals is distinct.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Address concerns

Apropos 'SC asks states to provide more staff for SIR duty' (Dec 5), while replacing distressed BLOs may sustain the SIR, the potential disenfranchisement concerns remain unaddressed. Rural, elderly, and migrant voters face hurdles with technology, documentation, and confusing guidelines. Without a meaningful redesign of the SIR framework and transparency, the deployment of staff merely changes anything.

Tamanna Bhhoumik, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The decision of the High Command is final. There is no difference of opinion in our party. Everyone has the desire to become the CM. But, the high command decides who should be the CM...

Dinesh Gundu Rao, Karnataka Minister

Politics is the science of who gets what, when, and why.

Sidney Hillman

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

TRAI's reforms and the illusion of safety

Cybercrime is evolving faster than India's defences, with SMS scams driving record losses

MEGHA JAIN AND SURABHI SINGH

India's cyber-fraud crisis has reached a scale that can no longer be dismissed as a by-product of rapid digitalisation. The country lost an astonishing Rs 22,842 crore to cybercriminals in 2024 — almost three times the losses reported in 2023—with nearly 20 lakh complaints logged on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal. With the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre projecting losses of more than Rs 1.2 lakh-crore in 2025, the threat is evolving faster than our defences. Much of this fraud starts with just an SMS — a seemingly routine link claiming a bank update, subsidy, job, or reward.

Against this backdrop, TRAI's 2025 amendments to its TCCP regulations deserve full recognition. They arrive at the right moment, tackling a problem that has festered for years. Mandatory business registration, stricter classification of promotional and transactional messages, and the requirement to pre-tag variables such as URLs in SMS templates mark an overdue clean-up of India's messy commercial messaging ecosystem. Telecom operators now whitelist these templates, blocking malicious links before they reach users. AI-based systems identify suspiciously high-volume messaging, and quickly suspend offenders. For a country weary of spam and fraud, these reforms promise long-awaited discipline.

But beneath this promising surface sit glaring vulnerabilities that cybercriminals are poised to exploit.

The centrepiece of the new system is the mandatory tagging of website links inside commercial SMS so telecom operators can check them against whitelists. In theory, this stops scammers from hijacking bank or government-style messages to plant malicious URLs. In practice, the system rests on self-declaration. The sender — whether a bank, fintech, or a fraudster pretending to be one—declares whether a URL is safe. There is no independent verification. If the URL matches the whitelisted entry the sender submitted, the system lets it through.

This works beautifully for honest businesses, and disastrously for everyone else. A sophisticated scammer can simply declare a malicious link 'legitimate', and slide it into a whitelisted template. The filter won't question it. India has already seen how a fragile messaging architecture can backfire: when the Distributed Ledger Technology scrubbing was introduced, slight mismatches blocked legitimate OTPs from major banks. That proved two things: false alarms can break the system, and blind trust can, too.

If tagging is the new gatekeeper, it can't be built solely on trust. Small but critical upgrades are needed: periodic third-party audits of declared URLs, AI monitoring to flag suspicious click behaviour, penalties for false declarations, and real-time co-ordination with cybercrime intelligence hubs, like the I4C. These are not bureaucratic burdens — they are survival mechanisms.

The second major blind spot in TRAI's framework is its limited scope. The rules, as strong as they are, apply only to registered businesses sending bulk commercial SMS. They do exclude messages from personal numbers (P2P), and those originating from foreign SIMs.

This is where India's defences are weakest, because cybercriminals have already adapted to evade enterprise-level regulations. If 'official-looking' bulk messages face scrutiny, they simply switch to ordinary Indian numbers or international numbers masked as domestic. With P2P traffic forming nearly 70% of India's SMS volume, this loophole isn't a crack—it's a highway.

Rural India is paying the price. Digital adoption has surged, but digital skills have lagged. The UPI saw 18.4 billion transactions worth Rs 24 lakh-crore in June, yet many rural youth struggle with basic smartphone tasks — only about half in Bihar and Rajasthan, compared with nearly 90% in Kerala. Scammers exploit this gap by sending fake SMS from personal numbers promising jobs, refunds, or government benefits. The result: cybercrime in rural and semi-urban areas jumped over 400% between 2021 and 2024, with some states crossing 1,000%.

This is why TRAI's reforms, while commendable, cannot stop at enterprise-level controls. Partial safeguards cannot protect citizens from shape-shifting, borderless cybercrime. To safeguard India's digital economy — especially its rural heartland — gaps in self-declaration, P2P oversight, and international SMS filtering must be closed. Parliamentarians may call for digital literacy drives, but awareness without system-level protection is not enough.

The question is no longer whether TRAI's reforms are necessary — they are. The question is whether they are enough. Without mandatory audits, AI-driven anomaly detection, international telecom cooperation, I4C-linked intelligence systems, and risk-based P2P monitoring, cybercriminals will continue exploiting blind spots. The promise of digital inclusion will remain fragile, and the benefits of India's payments revolution will be overshadowed by fear and mistrust.

India must decide: fortify its messaging ecosystem with resilience against today's cyber threats, or let cyber sharks devour the vulnerable? The window for action is narrowing.

(Megha is Assistant Professor, Shyam Lal College (M), University of Delhi, and senior visiting fellow, Pahle India Foundation, Delhi. Surabhi is Research Associate, Pahle India Foundation)

Policing: Reform promised, delivery delayed

N RAMACHANDRAN

The Conference of Directors General of Police brings together India's highest political leadership and top brass of the police, intelligence, and security agencies. The agenda of the most important gathering of the country's internal security apparatus has been wide: police modernisation, technology adoption, forensics, left-wing extremism, counter-radicalisation, cyber security, coastal security, narcotics control, terrorism, border management, and more. This year too, the conference took place in Raipur on November 29 and 30.

However, for decades, this apex forum has failed to engage seriously with the systemic distortions that afflict Indian policing. The core reforms identified by the National Police Commission, subsequently mandated by the Supreme Court in the 2006 Prakash Singh judgment, and reiterated by every major expert commission (headed by Ribeiro, Padmanabhaiah, Soli Sorabjee, Malimath), have never driven the conference's agenda. Instead, the discussions remain focused on operational matters that, though important, do not constitute "police reform". The conference's tone has always been about threats, preparedness, and law-and-order management. As a result, the conference has not delivered the long-overdue systemic reforms that Indian policing urgently needs.

Missing from serious deliberation are crucial structural reforms: political neutrality and insulation from interference, citizen-centred service delivery, rebuilding trust, professional leadership, behavioural and cultural transformation, and internal accountability, with independent oversight through State Security Commissions.

India's real policing crisis arises not from technology gaps, but from deficits in sensitivity, accessibility, fairness and trust. Citizens still fear approaching the police; excessive force and custodial violence remain widespread. Investigations are frequently influenced by political pressure or biases. Severely overburdened personnel, limited transparency, and weak accountability mechanisms further erode confidence. Without addressing these structural and behavioural issues, any improvements will remain cosmetic.

To be fair, policing in India has seen gradual progress; better infrastructure and technology adoption, and many dedicated officers across ranks working hard to deliver better services. However, these achievements cannot offset the deeper problems of accountability and political interference. Too often, police leaders allow themselves to be used to serve partisan agendas, seriously undermining the rule of law.

In 2014, in his first address to the conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi articulated his vision of a SMART Police – Strict, Sensitive, Modern, Mobile, Alert, Accountable, Reliable, and Responsive. It generated enormous optimism and a sense that long-pending reforms might finally gain momentum. Yet, nothing substantive followed. Neither the Ministry of Home Affairs, nor the police leadership, nor even the prime minister's office pushed the vision forward. There has been no roadmap, no timelines, no monitoring mechanism, and no accountability for implementation. The idea remained on posters and conference banners, never translated into action. This pattern has persisted. Each year, grand themes and ambitious visions are announced, yet no institutional mechanism exists to ensure follow-through; there is no continuity of agenda across years.

Genuine transformation will be felt only when policing becomes impartial and citizen-centric. At the 2025 conference, the prime minister stressed the urgent need to transform public perceptions of the police. However, the conference did not discuss the reason for this negative perception. As one senior officer candidly observed, the first step must be acknowledging responsibility for this negative image, welcoming constructive criticism, improving accessibility and sensitivity, and ensuring courteous conduct. Equally essential is providing police personnel with basic dignity in their working and living conditions.

The PM's call to build a police force suited for a Viksit Bharat 2047 raises hope once again. But the conference offered no clear vision of what such future-ready police should look like, nor a concrete roadmap to get there. While the PM articulates the vision, it is the responsibility of the MHA and the police leadership to translate his vision into action. The critical question is: will this vision-2047 for transformative policing be pursued, or will it also fade without follow-up?

(The writer is an IPS officer who retired as DGP from the Assam-Meghalaya cadre. He is the Founder and Vice Chairman of the Indian Police Foundation. Views are personal.)

Law Enforcement: The Overdue Overhaul

HISTORY:

Police Act of 1861: Enacted after the 1857 rebellion against the British Raj

1950: Constitution of India comes into effect, placing policing on the State List (7th Schedule).

1971: Gore Committee: Emphasises service-oriented policing, ethics, and human rights.

1977-81: National Police Commission: Recommends separating investigation from law & order and replacing the 1861 Act.

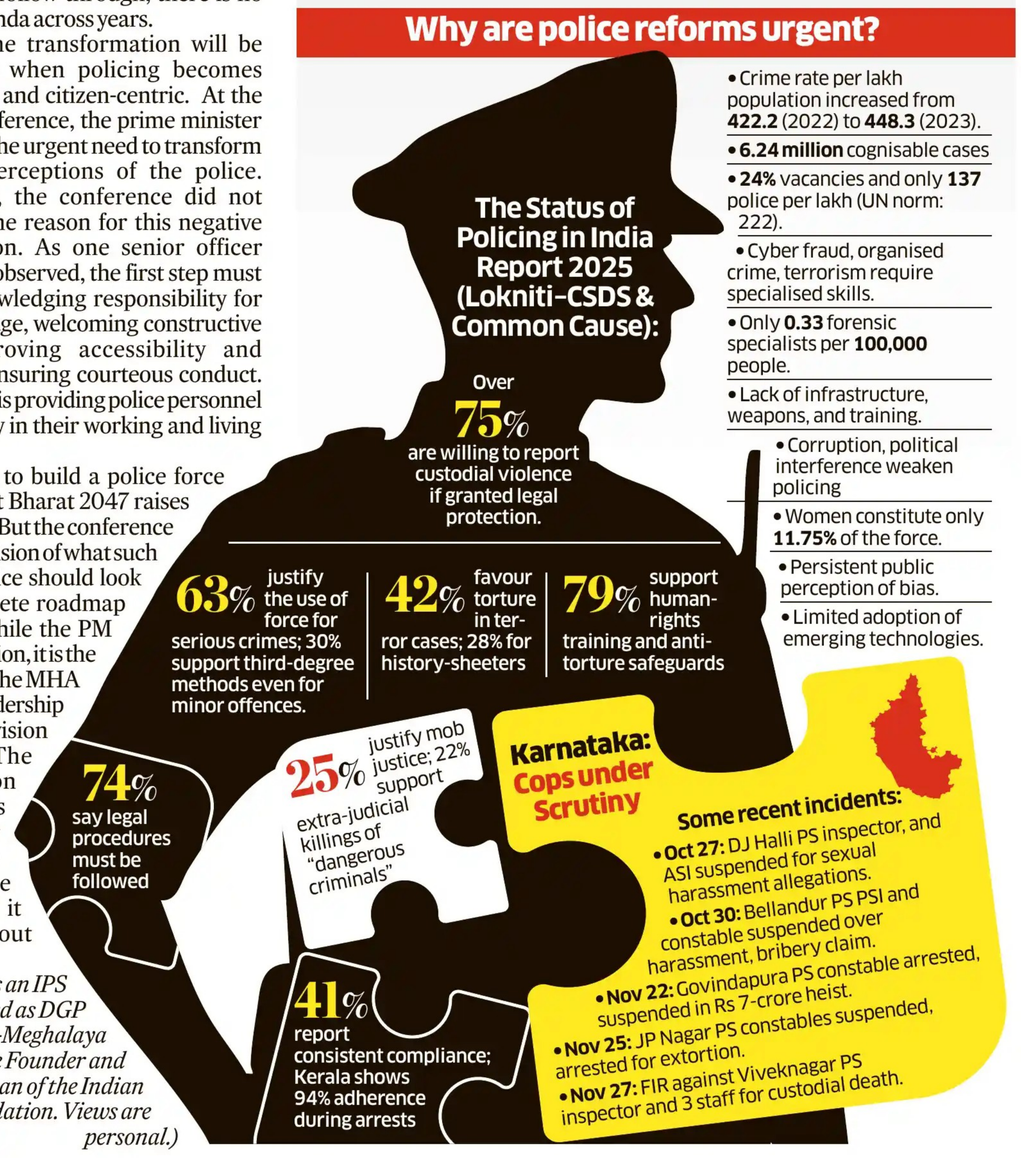
1998: Ribeiro Committee: Calls for independent oversight bodies, modern training, and community policing.

2000: Padmanabhaiah Committee: Advocates modernisation, improved training, and manpower restructuring.

2003: Malimath Committee: Focuses on forensic capability, a federal law enforcement agency, and a witness protection programme.

2006: Supreme Court, in Prakash Singh vs Union of India case, directs:
- State and National Security Commissions
- 2-year tenure for DGP, SPs, SHOs
- Separating investigation from law and order
- Police Establishment Board
- State and district complaint bodies

Why are police reforms urgent?


The Status of Policing in India Report 2025 (Lokniti-CSDS & Common Cause):
Over 75% are willing to report custodial violence if granted legal protection.
63% justify the use of force for serious crimes; 30% support third-degree methods even for minor offences.
42% favour torture in terror cases; 28% for history-sheeters
79% support human-rights training and anti-torture safeguards
74% say legal procedures must be followed
25% justify mob justice; 22% support extra-judicial killings of "dangerous criminals"
41% report consistent compliance; Kerala shows 94% adherence during arrests
Karnataka: Cops under Scrutiny
Some recent incidents:
• Oct 27: DJ Halli PS inspector, and ASI suspended for sexual harassment allegations.
• Oct 30: Bellandur PS PSI and constable suspended over harassment, bribery claim.
• Nov 22: Govindapura PS constable arrested, suspended in Rs 7-crore heist.
• Nov 25: JP Nagar PS constables suspended, arrested for extortion.
• Nov 27: FIR against Viveknagar PS inspector and 3 staff for custodial death.

- Crime rate per lakh population increased from **422.2** (2022) to **448.3** (2023).
- **6.24 million** cognisable cases
- **24%** vacancies and only **137** police per lakh (UN norm: 222).
- Cyber fraud, organised crime, terrorism require specialised skills.
- Only **0.33** forensic specialists per **100,000** people.
- Lack of infrastructure, weapons, and training.
- Corruption, political interference weaken policing
- Women constitute only **11.75%** of the force.
- Persistent public perception of bias.
- Limited adoption of emerging technologies.

'K'taka has zero tolerance for misconduct by cops'

In an interview with *DH*'s **Prajwal D'Souza,** Karnataka Director General and Inspector General of Police, **M A Saleem,** outlines the state's progress in implementing police reforms and reiterates his policy of zero-tolerance for misconduct by his personnel.

Excerpts...

Where does Karnataka stand in implementing police reforms?

Karnataka has made good progress in implementing police reforms, particularly through legislative amendments for fixed tenures in operational roles. The state has fully complied with the Supreme Court's directives in the Prakash Singh case and has also implemented the Ribeiro Committee recommendations, including the establishment of the State Security Commission, Police Complaint Authority, ensuring a minimum tenure to all officers, improving police accountability and transparent appointment of DGP selected from among the three senior-most officers empanelled by UPSC. Body-worn cameras made compulsory statewide usage for ensuring transparency.

Have you introduced any special directives or programmes for improving the police image?

The state government recently unveiled a new navy-blue peak cap for police constables, replacing the traditional slouch hat used for over 50 years, symbolising the beginning of broader reforms intended to modernise the police force's image and performance. The state government launched special task forces, such as the Anti-Narcotics Task Force, supported by the 'Sanmitra' program, targeting prevalent social issues like drug abuse. The victim-sensitive policing is aimed at protecting vulnerable groups and ensuring public safety with greater empathy. The Special Action Force (SAF) was formally inaugurated on June 13, 2025, as a dedicated rapid response unit to tackle communal incidents in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Shivamogga.

Where does the Karnataka police stand in terms of embracing and implementing tech?

An in-house AI platform called KSP.AI was officially launched in 2024. It aids police by automating manual processes, transforming complaints into standardised FIRs, identifying applicable laws and legal sections based on case facts and summarising case details. Initial phases show a 99.9% accuracy rate within its trained domain, with plans to extend AI assistance to investigations. The CID, in collaboration with DSCI and Infosys Foundation, established the Centre for Cybercrime Investigation Training and Research (CCITR) in Bengaluru. We have also deployed other tech-driven solutions such as the ASTraM system for traffic management, which uses AI and real-time data for congestion alerts, incident reporting, event planning, and ambulance tracking in Bengaluru.

What can be done to prevent the repetition of misconduct by police personnel?

Karnataka State Police has a zero tolerance for any type of misconduct. Criminal cases have been registered against police officers and policemen if they are found to be involved in any criminal activity or provide assistance to any criminal. Recent cases against six police officials are a testament to this fact. Disciplinary action is also taken against any misdemeanour.

Is the state police trying to raise public awareness of the three new criminal laws?

Karnataka Police is at the forefront in the implementation of the new criminal laws. In fact, the first FIR under the new laws was registered in Karnataka. We are working to improve public awareness of the new laws. The *'Mane Manege Police'* (Police to Every Home) programme serves as a platform to educate citizens about various safety issues and legal changes, ensuring the new laws are understood and accepted at the grassroots level. Officers listen to community concerns, guide on matters including cybercrime, drug abuse, and women's safety and facilitate trust-building between the police and the public.

The world's plastic crisis is set to worsen by 2040

Global production of new plastic is set to increase by 52%, twice the capacity of waste-management systems, writes Leslie Kaufman

Despite clear evidence that plastic is clogging oceans and beaches and breaking down into microplastics that enter our bodies, humans are continuing to produce the material at accelerating rates.

The result: Global plastic pollution will hit 280 million metric tons per year by 2040, or a dump truck's worth every second.

That is one of the alarming statistics from Breaking the Plastic Wave 2025, a report by the Pew Charitable Trusts with ICF International. It offers a comprehensive assessment of plastic pollution and its effect on human health and the environment.

In August, talks to forge an international treaty to rein in plastic pollution collapsed as countries that produce the majority of the material blocked proposals to limit the amount of new plastic created. Meanwhile, recycling rates have remained low.

The new report is a bit of a hybrid. It compiles data from recent research and then runs it through a model to predict outcomes under different policy scenarios. Winnie Lau, director of Pew's Preventing Ocean Plastics project and one of the authors, said the team "wanted to pull it all together in one integrated analysis to look at impacts across the board."

Pew published a similar report in 2020, but it then limited its scope to pollution from consumer-facing plastics, such as packaging, that end up in solid waste systems. This report looks far beyond that to include "hidden" plastics, including those used in the construction, agriculture and transportation sectors.

If the world continues on the current trajectory, the outlook for 2040 is bleak, the report warns. Global production of new plastic is set to increase by 52%, twice as much as what waste-management systems can handle. Plastic-related greenhouse gas emissions are expected to surge by 58%, to 4.2 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year — enough that, if plastic production were a country, it would be the current third-largest emitter. At the root of the problem is the fact that plastics are mostly derived from fossil fuels.

An aerial photo taken on November 25 shows plastic waste in a village on the outskirts of Hanoi, Vietnam. AFP

There are some 16,000 different chemicals in plastics, and scientists have identified more than one-fourth of those as possibly harmful to human health. In the five years since the last Pew report, a wave of research has attempted to understand, in particular, how a class of chemicals known as endocrine disruptors, widely used in makeup and cookware, may affect digestive, reproductive and cognitive function.

Pew also modelled the global health impacts associated with the making and disposal of plastic (excluding microplastics) and related pollution. The authors estimate the world's population will lose 5.6 million total years of healthy life in 2025 and 9.8 million years in 2040. Primary plastic production accounts for the majority of this via links to cancers and respiratory diseases.

Countries and communities already have tools at their disposal to reduce the manufacture and use of plastics drastically. They could mandate better product and packaging design and invest in infrastructure to support reuse. (Think of how milkmen would once deliver bottles of milk while carting away the used ones for cleaning and refilling.)

In Pew's ideal scenario, subsidies for plastic production would be eliminated and waste collection would be greatly expanded. If that happened, nearly 100% of consumer packaging could be collected, and recycling rates could double, the authors write.

But even under perfect conditions, they concede, microplastics would be much harder to control. The main sources of microplastics are vehicle tyre dust, paint and agriculture-related products — for example, fertiliser sold in plastic pods that dissolve into soil and plastic sheeting that is used for mulch. There are few straightforward substitutes for these materials.

Among Pew's recommendations are decreasing overall plastic production, using safer chemicals and taking targeted actions to reduce the shedding of microplastics. One anti-plastics group welcomed the report. "We need laws that require fewer toxic chemicals in plastic and less plastic production, and we applaud Pew for prioritising those measures," said Judith Enck, president of Beyond Plastics and a former Environmental Protection Agency regional administrator.

However, Enck said the authors were overly optimistic in projecting that plastic recycling would grow substantially with different policies in place.

"There's a good reason why the plastics recycling rate has never reached double digits," she said. "It's because its chemical and polymer complexity makes large-scale recycling technically and economically infeasible. We're wasting valuable time by relying on a system that has not worked for decades."

- Bloomberg

DID YOU KNOW?

To save colony, sick ants invite destruction

Sick young ants release a smell to tell worker ants to destroy them to protect the colony from infection, scientists said Tuesday, adding that queens do not seem to commit this act of self-sacrifice.

Many animals conceal illness for social reasons. For example, sick humans are known to risk infecting others so they can still go to the office — or the pub.

Ant colonies, however, act as a single "super-organism" that works to ensure the survival of all, similar to how infected cells in our bodies send out a "find-me and eat-me" signal, according to a team of scientists.

Ant nests are a "perfect place for a disease outbreak to occur because there are thousands of ants crawling over each other," Erika Dawson, a behavioural ecologist at the Institute of Science and Technology Austria and lead author of a new study, told AFP.

When adult worker ants get an illness that could spread through the colony, they leave the nest to die alone.

Young ants, known as pupae, in contrast, are still trapped inside a cocoon, making this kind of social distancing impossible.

Scientists had already figured out that when these pupae are terminally ill, there is a chemical change that produces a particular smell.

Adult worker ants then gather around, remove the cocoon, "bite holes in the pupae and insert poison," Dawson said.

The poison acts as a disinfectant, which kills both the colony-threatening pathogen and the pupae. For the new research, the scientists wanted to determine whether the pupae "were actively saying: 'hey, come and kill me'," Dawson said.

First, the scientists extracted the scent from the sick pupae of a small black garden ant, Lasius neglectus. When they applied the smell to a healthy brood in the lab, the workers still destroyed them.

Then, the team conducted an experiment showing that sick pupae emit the smell only when worker ants are nearby, proving it is a deliberate signal for destruction.

"While it is a sacrifice — an altruistic act — it's also in their own interest, because it means that their genes are going to survive and be passed on to the next generation," Dawson said.

However, when queen pupae are infected while inside their cocoons, they do not emit the smelly warning signal, the team found.

They found that the "queen pupae have much better immune systems than the worker pupae, and so they were able to fight off the infection -- and that's why we think that they weren't signalling", she said.

Dawson hopes future research will investigate whether queen pupae sacrifice themselves when it becomes clear they will not beat their infection. The study was published in the journal Nature Communications.

- AFP

Reach consensus or court will appoint VCs: SC to Kerala CM, governor

Apex court sets Tuesday deadline to find a solution

NEW DELHI, PTI

Pinarayi Vijayan

Rajendra Arlekar

VARSITY TROUBLE

- AG says CM had difficulties with some names
- CM's counsel bats for resolution by court
- Top court to hear the matter on Thursday

The Supreme Court on Friday said it will intervene to resolve the ongoing deadlock over the selection of vice chancellors for two technical universities in Kerala if Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Governor-cum-chancellor Rajendra Arlekar do not reach a consensus.

A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and PB Varale was hearing the matter related to the appointments of VCs of the APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University, and the University of Digital Sciences Innovation and Technology.

The bench asked Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the governor, and senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, representing the chief minister, to find out some amicable solution to the impasse.

Venkataramani submitted that the Justice (Retd) Sudhanshu Dhulia committee had recommended two sets of names and the chancellor had picked two names.

"The chief minister has some difficulty with some names. There are some common names," the AG said.

Advocate Gupta said the name, which is not acceptable to the chief minister, is the only one that the governor-cum-chancellor agrees upon.

"I think a resolution has to be found by this court," Gupta replied.

Justice Pardiwala told the senior counsels that Justice Dhulia led committee had recommended four names each for two universities and the governor and chief minister should appoint the most meritorious candidates from both the batches.

Noting that it will intervene and make the appointments itself if the consensus is not reached by December 9, the apex court said, "Reach consensus by Tuesday or we will appoint the vice chancellors and resolve the issue."

The top court has posted the matter for hearing on Thursday.

Adults under marriage age can be in live-in relationship: HC

JAIPUR, PTI: The Rajasthan High Court has ruled that two consenting adults are entitled to be in a live-in relationship even if they have not yet reached the legal age for marriage, underscoring that constitutional rights cannot be curtailed on that ground.

Justice Anoop Dhand delivered the judgment while hearing a plea for protection filed by an 18-year-old woman and a 19-year-old man from Kota, who told the court that they were living together out of free will.

The couple told the court that they had executed a live-in agreement on October 27, 2025. The petitioners alleged that the woman's family opposed the relationship and had threatened to kill them, and that their complaint to the Kota police went unaddressed.

Opposing the petition, public prosecutor Vivek Choudhary argued that because the man had not attained 21 years, the minimum legal age for marriage for men, he should not be permitted to be in a live-in arrangement.

The court dismissed the argument, saying the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution cannot be denied merely because the petitioners are not of marriageable age.

"The state has a constitutional obligation to safeguard the life and liberty of every individual," the judge observed, adding that live-in relationships are not prohibited under Indian law.

Prof takes charge as acting VC at Tezpur varsity amid shutdown

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

The ongoing protests by students and staff of Tezpur University in Assam took a dramatic turn when a senior professor 'assumed charge' as acting Vice Chancellor on Thursday night while another professor refused to act as pro-VC named by the 'missing' VC.

The situation at Tezpur University has remained tense for the past few months due to the protests against alleged mismanagement, corruption and absence of present Vice Chancellor, Shambhu Nath Singh.

On November 29, the situation worsened when the students "shut down" the University demanding removal of the VC and initiate an inquiry against him.

Singh has remained absent since September when protests intensified following his controversial statement over a programme to condole the death of Zubeen Garg.

On Thursday, amid the protests and 'shutdown', Singh convened a meeting of the university's Governing Body, which the VC chaired online from New Delhi.

The students said in the meeting, Singh named Joya Chakraborty, a professor of Mass Communication Department as a pro-Vice Chancellor. But Chakraborty, according to a student, refused to accept the decision.

On Thursday night, Dhruva Kumar Bhattacharyya, a senior professor of the computer science and engineering department, announced that he 'assumed the charge' as acting VC as per provisions in the University Act.

In a letter, Bhattacharyya said he "assumed the charge" due to "the long absence of the Vice-Chancellor, non-functioning of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and also in view of the current situation prevailing in the campus, to bring normalcy".

The protest and tension in the University also drew political attention with Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention.

Halting DJ sparks row, youth mows down three at UP wedding party

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The joys at a wedding function in Uttar Pradesh's Farrukhabad district turned into a tragedy after a youth, allegedly enraged over sudden closure of the DJ, drove his vehicle into a crowd of wedding guests killing three of them and leaving two others critically injured.

The tragedy occurred outside the wedding venue at Kaimganj in the district late on Thursday night, according to the reports.

Reports said that the marriage of one Vikas Yadav, a district level leader of the Samajwadi Party (SP), had been fixed with Deeksha Yadav, a resident of Kaimganj in Farrukhabad district.

The guests reportedly asked for the closure of the DJ after the wedding party arrived and the rituals began on Thursday night.

A youth, Kaushal Yadav, who was said to be the cousin of the bride, however, insisted on the continuance of the DJ. The 'baratis' (guests from the groom's side), however, refused to allow it.

Allegedly enraged over the closure, Kaushal drove his car into the crowd of the wedding guests, killing three people on the spot and leaving two other critically wounded.

According to eyewitness reports, Kaushal reversed his vehicle twice and drove into the crowd again, forcing the guests to run for safety and triggering chaos at the event.

Police said that the accused managed to escape from the venue after perpetrating the crime. A case was registered in this regard, and a hunt was launched to nab him.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin

HOW COME YOU DIDN'T TOUCH ANY OF OUR TRASH LAST NIGHT?
A BUDDY RACCOON INVITED ME TO DINNER AT HIS NEIGHBORHOOD'S GARBAGE CANS

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

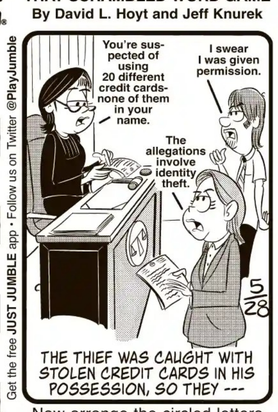
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NRDGA

HCITH

GTIWHE

CAEENM


You're suspected of using 20 different credit cards- none of them in your name.
I swear I was given permission.
The allegations involve identity theft.
5/28
THE THIEF WAS CAUGHT WITH STOLEN CREDIT CARDS IN HIS POSSESSION, SO THEY ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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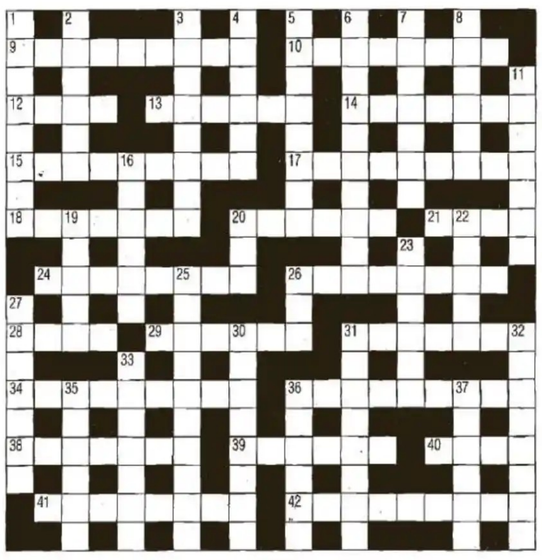
Answer here: _____ (Answers Monday)

Yesteray's Jumbles: ICING TEMPO DAINTY BEHIND
Answer: His latest math test to earn a spot on the refrigerator door was a — NICE ADDITION

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4017



ACROSS

9 Exasperation (9)
10 Killer (8)
12 Pavement edge (4)
13 Riches (6)
14 Planet (7)
15 Improvised (9)
17 Take the place of (9)
18 Atomic (7)
20 Gloomy (6)
21 Self-satisfied (4)
24 Cooking utensil (8)
26 Attire (8)
28 Notion (4)
29 A dozen (6)
31 Portentous (7)
34 Favoured (9)
36 Lie (9)
38 Twister (7)
39 Purchased (6)
40 Strong wind (4)
41 Sherry glass (8)
42 Graveyard monument (9)

DOWN

1 Crack shot (8)
2 Warm jacket (6)
3 Lower (8)
4 Piece of small shot (6)
5 Stress (8)
6 Musical instrument (5,5)
7 Panther (7)
8 Bewilder (6)
11 Retaliation (7)
16 Stink (6)
19 Fad (5)
20 Noise (3)
22 Fruit (5)
23 Flourish (6)
25 Electrical socket (5,5)
26 Snooker stick (3)
27 Debate (7)
30 Beetle (8)
31 US state (8)
32 Disappointed (8)
33 Six-sided figure (7)
35 Adorn (6)
36 Defective (6)
37 Public speaker (6)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS

9 Is it suitable for high tea? (5,4)
10 Start to fray and become tiresome (4,4)
12 Are caught trespassing in the land (4)
13 Tell you the winner will be the favourite: "Ladies' Wear" (6)
14 Garment donned when going for a spin? (7)
15 Rings and cajoles into (4,5)
17 Role played in "The Letter"? (9)
18 The twit dropped it? Rot! Absolute nonsense! (7)
20 Shoves the tom cat outside (6)
21 Back from "The Green Man" (4)
24 Was a stalker, one understood (8)
26 Netting one's jumping over successfully (8)
28 Want to turn the key to enter the home (4)
29 Quite honestly (6)
31 An indication, to a dog (7)
34 So then got hooked by the drug immediately (2,3,4)
36 Speaking personally, why I need the film script (3,2,4)
38 So well off with the quarter increase, gets all puffed up (7)
39 About fifty, getting his kinky enjoyment from (6)
40 Have to do with traffic (4)
41 Decide, though it's close (8)
42 Pulling out the phone number (9)

DOWN

1 See there's a knack in standing upright (8)
2 Pluck and steal off with (6)
3 With the treatment for the main trouble, get a positive result (8)
4 Cried when one looked at (6)
5 In no time, they show one to be doubly right (3,5)
6 Looks at the potentials for the role? (5,2,3)
7 Don't allow a GP going off to get a locum (7)
8 Attack one to get occupation of the shack (3,3)
11 Let off the lead, comes over to frighten one (7)
16 A mystery for the big screen (6)
19 Taking me out for a meal at lunchtime, on my own (5)
20 Walk home (3)
22 Figure there's a catch to being an artist (5)
23 Bright, though with bad weather coming through next (6)
25 Keeping mum and keeping oneself warm (8,2)
26 Call round on a pal (3)
27 Give approval to at last, or half seem to (7)
30 Put spin on again when one hit it back (8)
31 Holiness? (8)
32 So very good it's disconcerting? (8)
33 Piece of a dress, a strand of hair and poison? (7)
35 Assumed, when one made a fuss (4,2)
36 Had dropped everything into the marsh (6)
37 After the drink, figure on going back with her (6)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12303

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 1, S.-Cram 6, Pi-L-Is 9, Fancied 10, C-left 11, Lloyd 12, Er-ni-e 13, Civilly 15, Tun (ton) 17, Hear 18, Salute 19, A-gain 20, Fru-it-y 22, Sid-E 24, Fo-E 25, Stopper 26, D-ail-y 27, Janus 28, Greek 29, Peg's out 30, Tyres 31, M-arty.
DOWN: 2, Col-LI-e 3, A-ff-air 4, Mat 5, Scary 6, Pelican 7, I'd-le 8, Lay-out 12, E-leg-y 13, Chaff 14, V-ague 15, Tulip 16, Never (-land) 18, S-IX-ty 19, Atlases 21, Ro-many 22, Sparta 23, Decent 25, SL-ash 26, Dupe 28, Gum.

EASY

ACROSS: 1, Flaws 6, Scare 9, Hospice 10, Carat 11, Enemy 12, Erupt 13, Javelin 15, Ale 17, Uses 18, Argued 19, Belle 20, Totter 22, Mere 24, Aga 25, Endures 26, Range 27, Depot 28, Farce 29, Benefit 30, Asked 31, Tense.
DOWN: 2, Llamas 3, Whales 4, Sot 5, Spurn 6, Sceptre 7, Cent 8, Ramble 12, Eider 13, Junta 14, Vesta 15, Auger 16, Edges 18, Alone 19, Belated 21, Ogress 22, Mutate 23, Reacts 25, Egged 26, Robe 28, Fit.

◆SU-DO-KU-6770◆

	6		4	3			8	
	8	7						2
2	4				8			1
	7							
4		1	8		9	2		6
							9	
8			3				6	5
6						4	7	
	9			4	6		2	

hard

9	2	5	7	3	4	6	1	8
3	6	1	8	5	9	2	7	4
7	8	4	2	6	1	3	9	5
5	1	2	4	7	6	8	3	9
4	7	6	9	8	3	1	5	2
8	9	3	1	2	5	4	6	7
6	4	7	3	9	2	5	8	1
1	5	8	6	4	7	9	2	3
2	3	9	5	1	8	7	4	6

SOLUTION TO 6769

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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U1	R1	B3	U1	M3	L1	E1		RACK 1
E1	E1	I1	D2	N1	T1	T1	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
I1	E1	L1	C3	D2	M3	O1		RACK 3
R1	V4	Y4	A1	A1	T1	O1	1st Letter Triple	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 110-120
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

D2	E1	G2	A1	S1	E1	S1	RACK 1 =	68
M3	E1	D2	I1	A1	L1	S1	RACK 2 =	80
S1	E1	E1	D2	I1	N1	G2	RACK 3 =	68
B3	A1	B3	O1	O1	N1	S1	RACK 4 =	83

PAR SCORE 195-205 JUDD'S TOTAL 299

HITORI-3224

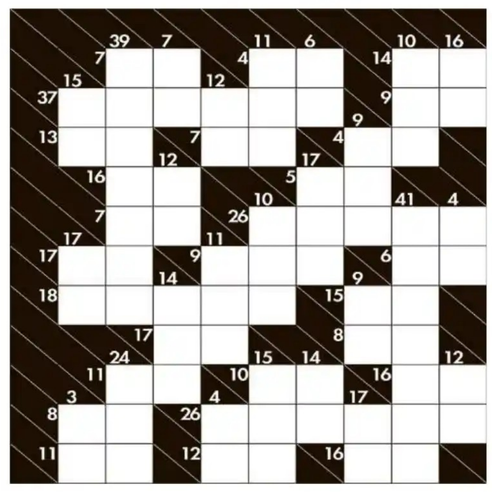
3	1	2	2	4	1	2	7
5	3	8	6	6	4	7	2
1	7	1	8	2	5	2	1
7	2	1	3	1	8	2	6
4	2	6	6	8	7	3	1
4	6	3	7	6	2	6	8
2	1	7	3	5	3	6	4
1	4	8	5	1	4	8	3

SOLUTION TO 3223

7	3	■	2	8	■	6	4
4	■	2	7	6	5	■	8
2	4	■	6	3	■	5	7
6	5	8	■	4	3	1	■
■	1	7	8	■	4	■	6
5	6	■	3	7	1	8	2
8	■	3	■	2	■	4	■
3	8	1	4	■	6	2	5

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3224



SOLUTION TO 3223

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3757

■	8	4						■
	■						■	5
		■	2			■	7	
	4	3	■		1			
8		5		■	3	2		
9			6	7	■			
		■			8	■		2
4	■						■	8
■				4		7	1	■

SOLUTION TO 3756

2	4	8	1	9	6	3	7	5
5	6	1	4	3	7	2	8	9
3	9	7	8	2	5	1	6	4
7	3	9	5	6	2	4	1	8
1	5	2	7	4	8	9	3	6
4	8	6	9	1	3	5	2	7
9	1	3	6	7	4	8	5	2
8	7	4	2	5	1	6	9	3
6	2	5	3	8	9	7	4	1

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Row over dinner invite to Tharoor as Kharge, Rahul snubbed

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Leaders of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi were not invited to the banquet for Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted by President Droupadi Murmu but senior Congress MP Shashi Tharoor was.

Congress was quick to take a swipe at Tharoor for accepting the invite, saying one should understand "Why the game is being played" by the Modi government.

"There has been speculation whether the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha have been invited for tonight's official dinner in honour of President Putin. The two LoPs have not been invited," General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said.

Tharoor said there was a time when the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs was routinely invited, but that practice seems to have stopped some years ago. "It has been resumed... I will definitely go," he said.

Russia offers to build 'Chernobyl on Ice' successor

Both sides confirm intention to broaden nuclear tie

President Droupadi Murmu, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a state banquet at Rashtrapati Bhavan. PTI

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Russia offered to build a floating nuclear power plant in India's territorial waters, besides sharing Small Modular Reactor technologies, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin on Friday discussed taking bilateral atomic energy cooperation beyond Tamil Nadu's Kudankulam facility.

Moscow also renewed its call to New Delhi to allot a second site to build a new nuclear power plant with its tech.

"We believe that building SMRs and floating nuclear power plants NPPs [in India] could also be relevant, just as using nuclear technology for non-energy purposes, including in healthcare and agriculture," Putin told journalists after meeting Modi in New Delhi.

Russia's Akademik Lomonosov, a barge-mounted facility with two KLT-40S reactors, is the world's first floating nuclear power plant. It was launched in 2018, brought to its permanent location in Russia's Arctic Chukotka region in September 2019 and made operational in December 2019.

Several environmental organisations expressed concerns over its safety, with Greenpeace calling it "Chernobyl on Ice", referring to the 1986 disaster at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, now in present-day Ukraine.

The two sides also confirmed their "intention to broaden cooperation in nuclear energy, including fuel cycle, life cycle support for operating Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) and non-power applications, as well as to elaborate the new agenda of interaction in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy and related high technologies".

The KKNPP is the flagship project of India-Russia bilateral cooperation in nuclear energy. It is proposed to have six VVER-1000 reactors with an installed capacity of 1,000 MWe each.

The first and second units, with two Russian VVER 1000 pressurised water reactors, started commercial operation in 2014 and 2017, respectively. The third unit is undergoing pre-startup operations and preparing for safety tests.

NUKE TIES

- Russia proposes to construct floating nuclear power plant in India's territorial waters
- Russia also offers to share SMR technologies
- MAHAGENCO, Rosatom inked an MoU earlier this year to develop an SMR that runs on thorium
- Two sides discuss taking bilateral atomic energy cooperation beyond TN's Kudankulam power plant

India, Russia to set up defence joint ventures

This was one of the key outcomes of Modi-Putin meeting

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Russia has agreed to establish joint-venture (JV) companies in India for the local production of "spare and components" as well as "defence equipment under technology transfer" for the Indian armed forces.

This was one of the key outcomes of the summit meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin, even though the officials didn't disclose the military items the two sides discussed for manufacturing in India.

"Both sides agreed to encourage joint manufacturing in India of spare parts, components, aggregates and other products for the maintenance of Russian origin arms and defence equipment under the 'Make in India' programme through the transfer of technology and setting up of JVs to meet the needs of the Indian armed forces as well as subsequent export to mutually friendly third countries," said the joint statement issued after the Modi-Putin meeting.

Quoting Russian State Corporation (Rostec) CEO Sergei Chemezov, news agency TASS reported that Moscow proposed localised production of the fifth-generation stealth fighter jet Su-57 in India.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told reporters, "Our military technical cooperation remains robust. Russia also continues to support 'Make in India' initiatives, including through joint production and technology transfer."

A flagship example of previous India-Russia partnerships in military manufacturing is the production of the supersonic cruise missile BrahMos for the Indian armed forces. The weapon, used in Operation Sindoor, has been exported to the Philippines, and similar deals are being negotiated with other nations.

Other prominent Indo-Russian collaborations in arms manufacturing include the production of AK-203 assault rifles and combat jets like Su-30 MKI and MiG-21 by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction with regular military contacts, including at the meeting of defence ministers in Qingdao in June on the sidelines of the SCO member-states' Defence Ministers' Meeting.

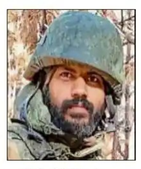
New Delhi and Moscow praised the regular conduct of the Indra series of joint military exercises, and reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining momentum and expanding military-delegation exchanges.

COLLABORATION

- Joint-venture companies to be established in India for defence spares and equipment
- Earlier collaborations led to production of BrahMos missiles
- India, Russia reaffirm commitment to stronger military exchanges

'Missing' Kerala man's family finds new hope as ties improve

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: As talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi progressed in Delhi, a family in Kerala had more reasons to hope that the strengthening bilateral ties would help them receive a conclusive update on a family member missing in Russia for nearly a year.



Binil Babu

Thrissur-native Binil Babu (32) reportedly went missing in the Russia-Ukraine warzone in January. Though he was feared to have been killed, the family has yet to get any conclusive report in this regard.

"The last information we received from the embassy was that Binil was missing. Over the last few months, there has been no further update," Binil's wife Joicy told *DH*.

The uncertainty is causing not just mental trauma to the family, but other issues as well. Joicy was asked by the authorities concerned to produce Binil's death certificate to prove his current status when she wanted to make a change to their child's name in official documents.

Binil's relative, Jain Kurian, who accompanied him to Russia, returned in April after sustaining serious injuries in the war zone.

Binil and Jain were among several Indians illegally recruited to serve as Russian mercenaries in the war against Ukraine without any training.

Free tourist visa for Russians

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India will soon introduce a free 30-day e-Tourist Visa and a 30-day Group Tourist Visa for Russian citizens, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced after meeting President Vladimir Putin on Friday.

The two sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation and Collaboration in Broadcasting between Prasar Bharati and Russia's Joint Stock Company Gazprom Media Holding.

Two more MoUs were inked to strengthen collaboration in broadcasting.

Modi, Putin vow stronger fight against terror

NEW DELHI, DHNS

India and Russia on Friday reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation against common challenges, including terrorism, extremism, transnational organised crime, money laundering, terrorist financing and illicit drug trafficking.

"India and Russia have long stood shoulder to shoulder in the fight against terrorism. Whether it is the terrorist attack in Pahalgam or the cowardly attack at Crocus City Hall, the root of all such incidents is the same," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after his meeting with President Vladimir Putin.

Modi and Putin reaffirmed their strong commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms, including cross-border movement of terrorists, financing networks and safe havens. They strongly condemned the Pahalgam terrorist attack and the 2024 attack at Crocus City Hall in Moscow.

The leaders unequivocally condemned all acts of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of any religious or ideological pretexts, wherever and by whomever they are committed. They called for concerted action against all UN-listed terrorist groups and entities, including al-Qaeda, IS/Daesh and their affiliates, according to a joint statement issued after the 23rd India-Russia summit.

They also called for an uncompromising fight against international terrorism and extremism in all forms, stressing the importance of enhanced cooperation based on international law and the UN Charter, free from hidden agendas or double standards. They underscored the need for firm implementation of relevant UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, along with balanced execution of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The leaders emphasised the primary responsibility of states and their authorities in combating terrorism.

They urged a zero-tolerance policy and the swift finalisation and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the UN framework, as well as effective implementation of UNGA and UNSC resolutions on countering terrorism and violent extremism.

ZERO TOLERANCE

- Summit condemns attacks in Pahalgam and Moscow
- Modi, Putin pledge closer coordination to root out safe havens for terrorist and financing networks
- Leaders condemn acts of terrorism as unjustifiable
- Emphasise primary responsibility of states in combating terrorism
- Welcome counter-terrorism measures against international groups

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite Tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for below mentioned works.

Sl.No.	Name of the Works
1	Development of Sites & services (Sy No.5 and others) at Lingapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District in an extent of 36 Acres 15 Guntas. **Work Indent No:** KHB/2025-26/BD/work_Indent 665 & IFT No: 113/2025-26 Date: 04.12.2025. **Amount Put to Tender:** Rs.27,31,42,742/-
2	Proposed Additional Essential & Development works for Commercial Complex/Multiplex at Commercial Site No.955 in Suryanagar Phase-1, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. **Work Indent No:** KHB/2025-26/BD/work_Indent 666 & IFT No: 114/2025-26 Date: 04.12.2025. **Amount Put to Tender:** Rs.1,84,57,631/-

Last date for submission of Bids: 12.12.2025 upto 4.00 PM
For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Tel: 080-22273511 / 080-22100077 Website:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/CP/4247/CCL/2025-26 **Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru**

IN THE COURT OF XCI ADDL, CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AND SPECIAL COURT OF KPIDFE ACT 2004, AT BENGALURU (CCH-92)

MISC. No. 716/2025

BETWEEN: The Special Officer & Competent Authority for IMA & Other KPID Cases Competent Authority For M/s. Sevenhills Souhardha Sahakara Co-Operative Pvt., Ltd.,Represented by its Competent Authority Sri. Amlan Aditya Biswas, Aged about 56 Years Office at: 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Mini V.V. Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru.

.....PETITIONER

AND

M/s. Sevenhills Souhardha Sahakara Co-Operative Pvt., Ltd., And Others

...RESPONDENT'S

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT No. 3

3. Sri. Gangappa JN Son of Gangappa J N Aged About 61 Years, Jeelakunte Villlage, Gowribidanur Taluk, Nagaragere Hobli, Chickballapura District.

Whereas, the petitioner has filed the above petition under section 13(1) of the KPIDFE Act 2004 and against the Respondents.

The Respondent No. 3 is hereby issued show cause notice U/s 12(1) of KPIDFE Act 2004 to appear in court of the XCI Addl. City Civil and Sessions Judge (CCH-92) at Bengaluru, in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to above petition on **5th day of January 2026 at 11.00 A.M.,** in the forenoon.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the date above mentioned petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this **1st day December 2025.**

By order of the Court,
Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Sri Satish V., Special Public Prosecutor.

DIPR/CP/4229/Zen/2025-26

VACANCIES AT AIR FORCE SCHOOL, JALAHALLI.
(A Non- Governmental Organisation)
Applications Are Invited For A Walk-in Interview For The Following Teaching Staff To Be Conducted On December 11, 2025 Reporting Time 9:30am At Air Force School Jalahalli East

Sl.No.	Post	Subject	Category	Vacancy
01	TGT	Mathematics	Contractual	01

For details of eligibility criteria, please visit our website: www.afsjal.org.
Candidates are requested to carry their original documents for the interview.
For any queries contact Tel. No. 080-23455069.
The Executive Director,
AF School Jalahalli (East) Bangalore - 560014.

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Hosanagara Forest Division, Hosanagara.
District: Shivamogga, Taluk: Hosanagara,
e-Mail ID: acfhnr@gmail.com
No.: ACF/HNR/CAMPA/CIVIL/CR-01/2025-26/71
Date: 03.12.2025

E-Tender Notice (Through e-Procurement Portal)

As per the physical and financial targets set for the year 2025–26, under the CAMPA scheme for the construction of (02 Nos.) twin quarters in the premises of Sagara Range, Sagara Regional Division Forest Office (02 Nos.), each twin quarter costing Rs. 40.00 lakhs, totaling Rs. 80.00 lakhs, e-tender is invited from interested and eligible contractors under the two-cover system (Technical Bid and Financial Bid) through the e-procurement portal (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) on 03.12.2025, and the last date for submission of bids is 10.12.2025.

For further information, this office may be contacted. Details regarding the e-tender can also be obtained through the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in .

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests
Hosanagara Sub-Division, Hosanagara

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/28/12/1339

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation and Ground water Development Division, Chitradurga
NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB1/TENDER NOTIFICATION: 13/ 2025-26 DATE: 04.12.2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA By order and in his name the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Development Division, Chitradurga invited tenders as per Standard Bid Document K.W.-1, 2 & 4 Item rate tender in One and two cover system (K.W-1, 2 & 3) as per KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible contractors registered in KPWD (Minimum amount put to Tender-Rs. 10.00 Lakhs and Maximum amount put to Tender Rs. 225.00 Lakhs) for the 05 works through KPP-procurement portal.

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka KPP-PORTLA website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/from 04-12-2025 Last Date & Time for enquiries about tender 12-12-2025 upto 5.30 P.M., Last Date for submission of Tenders15-12-2025 upto 4.00 P.M. Opening of Technical bid for Tenders Date: 16-12-2025 after 4.30 P.M (If possible). Opening of Finanical bid Date: 17-12-2025 after 04.30 P.M (If possible). Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in KPP-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from KPP-procurement help desk No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 511/2025-26
Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI, Chitradurga

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti-586201.
Tq:B.Bagewadi Dt: Vijayapur. Phone:08426-281027 E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com
No: KBJNL/DDA/QUOTATION/2025-26/2351 Dated:04.12.2025

ENQUIRY OF RATES

Almatti Dam is major multi-purpose Reservoir project of national importance. The Dam is provided with 26 No's of spillway radial crest gates. It is requested to submit the quotation rates for the following item of works pertaining to hydro mechanical components to spillway radial crest gates of Almatti Dam for the purpose of preparation of estimate. The details of item of works are as follows.

Sl. No	Name of work	Unit	Quantity	Unit Rate in Rs. Excluding GST
1	**Hydraulic hoisting system:** Detailed site investigation, Design, Supply, Installation and commissioning of Hydraulic Hoisting Cylinders two numbers per gate, each of 115 Ton hoisting capacity (total 230 Ton) along with stainless steel piston rod (stem) X22CrNi17 conforming DIN 17440-No 1.4057 for each spillway radial crest gate of Almatti Dam including dismantling existing hoisting system (and buyback), with all necessary accessories, etc including cost of all materials, machinery, labour transportation, testing against full load complete with all leads and lifts as directed by Engineer in charge. The Technical specifications of the Hoisting system are as under: 1. Hoisting Capacity : 230 T consisting of two cylinders of 115 Ton capacity each 2. Stroke Length : 9.60 M 3. Length of Cylinder : 11.00 M 4. Design pressure : 220 Kg/cm2	Each	26	
2	**Installation of hydraulic power packs:** Design, supply, installation, commissioning of hydraulic power pack unit for hydraulic hoisting of spillway gates of Almatti Dam including design of suitable oil distribution network (stainless steel pipes) as per applicable standards & replacement of existing distribution pipes with stainless steel distribution system as per DIN standards, topping up of ISO VG 68/66 hydraulic oil, Digital Volt meter & Ammeter, Painting with zink rich primer, Commissioning of PU etc including cost of all construction of RCC room with UPVC sliding door with UPVC windows, dismantling existing structure, materials, machinery, labour, transportation, testing against full load, complete with all leads and lifts, disposal of dismantled materials, etc. as directed by Engineer in charge.	Each	26	
3	**Rectification of Trunnion assembly:** Survey, Investigation, Design, fabrication of rectification as per approved design of trunnion assembly to each spillway radial crest gate of Almatti Dam to achieve intended opening of gates including cost of obtaining expert opinion, reporting, approval to the design, rectification of obstruction, fabrication of rectification trunnion flange limb with same material, commissioning of spillway radial crest gate to full height (up to FRL 519.60 M & 524.256 M), testing against full load, etc., including cost of all materials, machinery, fabrication, labor, transportation complete with all leads and lifts as directed by the Engineer in charge.	Each	26	
4	**Overhauling of stoplog grooves and lifting beam:** Survey, Investigation, measurements, verification of dimensions of the stoplog grooves with respect to the existing stoplog elements using dummy frame resembling the existing stoplog unit to remove/rectify the interference/fouling of the guide track and other embedded elements, chipping/trimming/filling in the concrete portion, grinding/welding/filling at the fouling steel elements if required, for proper lowering of stop log units in the stop log groove, exercising stoplog elements into vent, re-commissioning of stoplog elements and overhauling. Servicing, design verification, rectification of the lifting beam for self-engagement/disengagement during lowering and retracting of stoplogs including cost obtaining experts opinion, reporting, obtaining approval from department, etc., including cost of all materials, machinery, labor, transportation, demonstration of smooth operation, etc. complete with all leads and lifts as directed by Engineer in charge.	Job	26	

For further details it is requested to visit the undersigned office personally and get the details of work. It is suggested to visit the site before submitting quotations. The quotations should be submitted in sealed cover or by mail. The last date submission of quotation is on**: 16.12.2025.**
Contact e-mail Address: dam_division@rediffmail.com
Contact Mobile No: Sri Tarasing Dodamani, EE, Mob No: 94484 05892, Sri Vithal Jadhav, A.E. Mob No: 89713 61932

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/510/ಕೆಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26 **KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti**

DIGGING DEEP: Committee has 15 days to report on 'deficiencies' that warrant 'independent examination'

DGCA orders high-level probe into IndiGo lapses

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday ordered a high-level inquiry, headed by Joint Director General Sanjay K Bramhane, to investigate what went wrong with IndiGo, whose schedules went haywire over the past few days, leading to the cancellation of a large number of flights.

It prima facie felt there were "deficiencies" in internal oversight, operational preparedness, and compliance planning, "warranting an independent examination". The DGCA said its four-member committee would undertake a "comprehensive review and assessment of the circumstances" that led to "such a massive disruption".

Hundreds of IndiGo flights were cancelled in the past few days as the airline struggled to assign crew in accordance with the new Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) norms, which mandate 48-hour uninterrupted rest a week, only two consecutive night duties, and other measures.

Besides Bramhane, the other members of the DGCA panel are Deputy Director General Amit Gupta, Senior Flight Operations Inspector Captain Kapil Manglik, and Flight Operations Inspector Lokesh Rampal. They have been given 15 days to submit their report.

What to expect

The terms of reference include identifying the causes behind the widespread operational disruptions, assessing the adequacy of manpower planning, rostering-system fluctuations and implementation preparedness, and reviewing the extent of compliance with the revised FDTL provisions, including the analysis of gaps admitted by the airline.

The panel is also expected to ascertain accountability and responsibility for planning failures that led to the breakdown of operational stability, review the mitigation measures being undertaken by IndiGo in connection with the one-time exemption granted, and assess whether the airline was taking adequate steps to restore flight operations.

The regulator said all scheduled airlines, including IndiGo, were "repeatedly advised" to undertake comprehensive manpower planning, roster restructuring, and implementation preparedness to ensure seamless transition to the revised fatigue-management framework.

The DGCA order said it observed that the airline's inability to accurately forecast crew availability, conduct timely training, and realign rosters despite advance regulatory intimation "resulted in cascading delays and cancellations" across its network, beginning late November.

The airline acknowledged in a review meeting on Thursday that it had "failed to anticipate" the crew requirement under the new norms, and "significant planning and assessment gaps existed" in implementing Phase-II of the FDTL.

PANEL DETAILS

- Panel to be led by DGCA Joint Director General Sanjay K Bramhane
- Other members are Deputy Director General Amit Gupta, Senior Flight Operations Inspector Captain Kapil Manglik, and Flight Operations Inspector Lokesh Rampal
- All airlines, including IndiGo, were 'repeatedly advised' to undertake manpower planning, roster restructuring, and implementation preparedness, says DGCA

Stranded passengers interact with IndiGo officials at Raipur airport in Chhattisgarh. PTI

Pilots' association slams DGCA, airline

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Amid the crisis involving the operations of IndiGo, the Airline Pilots Association of India (ALPA) has slammed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), objecting strongly to what it said were selective and unsafe dispensations granted to IndiGo under the revised Flight Duty Time Limit (FDTL) CAR Phase-II implementation.

"The situation concerning the recent flight cancellations across India, allegedly attributed to pilot shortage due to new FDTL norms, raises significant questions about the airline's management, regulatory oversight by the DGCA, and market fairness," said ALPA President Sam Thomas.

"Granting continuous or unwarranted exemptions to FDTL norms would compromise passenger and crew safety, as the entire purpose of the new norms is to reduce pilot fatigue. Any relaxation granted should be based on scientific assessment and adequate risk mitigation," he added.

Slamming the management oversight, he said all airlines were aware of the revised FDTL norms, issued by the DGCA in January 2024.

"Despite sufficient time being accorded, most airlines started preparing rather late, failing to properly adjust crew rosters 15 days in advance, as required. This suggests an initial managerial underestimation or delay in the strategic planning necessary to provision the crew accordingly. While the new norms mandate increased rest periods and other restrictions to combat pilot fatigue, this does not necessarily increase the total number of pilots needed to maintain a schedule," he said.

DH DECIPHERS

Grounded giant: Inside IndiGo's crew crunch

IndiGo Airlines, which dominates the Indian civil aviation market, has hit major turbulence following the implementation of the new Flight Duty Time Limitation (FTDL) norms mandated by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). In the first three days of this week, the airline cancelled over 200 flights, with the number of cancellations surging past 500 on Thursday. **Shemin Joy** *decodes the crisis.*

Why is IndiGo cancelling a large number of flights?
The airline has not been able to assign enough crew to operate its services after regulatory changes in rostering norms aimed at reducing stress and fatigue. The company had 18 months to prepare for the implementation of the FTDL norms, but it was slow to hire, resulting in insufficient crew strength to run its large-scale operations. It was clear from the outset that even if it did not increase the number of planes, IndiGo would need to hire more crew to adhere to the norms.

What prompted the changes in FTDL norms?
Pilots had been complaining about hectic scheduling that caused stress and fatigue, impacting flight security. The FDTL norms guarantee sufficient rest for pilots, minimising the risk of untoward incidents. The issue reached the courts, and in 2023, the DGCA said it would revise the norms. The regulator rolled out new norms in January 2024, with a roadmap for implementation from June 2024, but it was deferred after airlines said they would need more time. It was subsequently decided to implement the rules in two phases on July 1 and November 1 this year.

What are the changes in FTDL norms?
Flight crew now have 48 hours of uninterrupted rest each week, up from 36 hours earlier. Night landings have been capped at two, compared to six previously, and crew should not be assigned more than two consecutive night duties. Airlines must also submit quarterly fatigue reports after analysis.

Why did IndiGo face trouble?
The airline's current crisis did not come out of the blue. Experts point to its slow pace of hiring despite being aware of the new FTDL norms. While it continued to add aircraft to its fleet weekly, recruitment did not match the pace. Over 1,200 services of IndiGo were cancelled in November. Its On-Time Performance fell from a high of 91.4% in July to 67.7% in November. On Tuesday, it fell to a low of 35%, and by Thursday, it dropped further to 8.5%.

Why is it having a huge impact on the aviation sector?
IndiGo is the market leader in India, commanding 65% of the business. Its nearest competitor, Air India, is way behind with a market share of just over 25%. IndiGo operates over 2,300 services daily, so cancellations of 20-25% have a huge impact.

What is the roadmap that IndiGo presented before the authorities?
IndiGo expects its operations to normalise by February 10 next year. This weekend could see more cancellations as part of schedule stabilisation efforts. From December 8, it will reduce operations to minimise disruption. The DGCA has asked IndiGo to submit a detailed roadmap outlining projected crew recruitment vis-a-vis the new induction of aircraft.

What did the airline tell the Ministry of Civil Aviation and DGCA?
IndiGo said it was facing significant transitional challenges in roster planning and crew availability under Phase 2 of the FDTL requirements. These issues, combined with winter operational constraints, have led to a sharp spike in cancellations and delays. It admitted that the disruptions arose primarily from misjudgment and planning gaps.

Railways operates special trains, adds coaches

NEW DELHI, DHNS: To cater to passengers who faced difficulties due to the disruption of Indigo flights, the Indian Railways deployed 116 extra coaches on 37 trains across multiple zones on Friday to help them reach their destinations.

As per the plan, additional AC and Sleeper Class coaches will be added depending on the demand.

These augmentations, implemented from December 6, 2025 onward, substantially expand accommodation capacity in the southern region.

A total of 116 coaches have been added through 114 augmented trips, carrying up to 4,000 passengers per trip and accommodating 4,89,288 passengers overall.

Steps are being taken to operate 30 new special trains with 18 coaches each, capable of carrying 30,780 passengers per trip. Across 57 trips, these trains will cater to 21,16,800 travellers.

In total, the arrangements are expected to handle 35,000 passengers per day, ensuring connectivity for nearly 26 lakh passengers during this period, a railway official said.

Southern Railway (SR) has carried out the highest number of augmentations, enhancing capacity in 18 trains. Additional Chair Car and Sleeper Class coaches have been deployed on high-demand routes, the Ministry of Railways said in a statement.

Weddings in turbulence: Chaos hits celebrations

NEW DELHI, REUTERS

Traditional wedding functions are a big affair in the country, but they have become a major casualty of the crisis engulfing IndiGo.

IndiGo's mass cancellations this week left thousands of passengers stranded, but the disruptions jolted brides and grooms hard — a couple was forced to attend their own wedding reception virtually, many rushed to reschedule and one family opted for a pricier charter flight.

Even the Singapore High Commissioner to India, Simon Wong, was trapped in the chaos, posting on X that his flight was cancelled and he was "lost for words" as he could not attend the wedding of a young staff member in the remote town of Deoghar.

The cancellations come during the peak wedding season — a $130 billion sector in the country in which families spend a large chunk of their wealth for days-long celebrations.

IndiGo has apologised to customers, but that may not be soothing enough for many to-be-weds.

Amit Kumar Gupta, founder of an equity research firm, told Reuters that his cousin's wedding celebrations, scheduled for this week in Goa, were being postponed, possibly to January.

"While the bride and groom had reached the destination, most family members were going to fly together from Delhi, but couldn't," Gupta said.

The wedding venue in Goa had offered some relief by offering a credit note, but no refunds were given.

Shirshti Magan was excited for her brother's wedding a day ago, but blamed IndiGo's flight cancellation for spoiling the family's celebrations.

"We are numb. A tragedy, made entirely by a single corporation. No natural calamity," Magan wrote on X.

Expect situation to normalise by December 10-15: CEO

On a day when IndiGo cancelled more than 1,000 flights, the airline's CEO Pieter Elbers on Friday said the situation is anticipated to normalise between December 10-15, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Elbers, in a video message, apologised for the major inconvenience caused to the passengers due to the disruptions.

"Regrettably, earlier measures of the last few days have proven not to be enough. So we decided today for a reboot of all our systems and schedules, resulting in the highest number of cancellations so far, but imperative for progressive improvements starting tomorrow.

"With these actions, we expect tomorrow to have cancellations below 1,000. The support of DGCA, in providing specific FDTL implementation relief, is of great help," Elbers said.

Pawan Kalyan seeks 'Sanatana board' over TN 'Deepam' row

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Friday waded into the ongoing controversy surrounding the Thirupparankundram in Tamil Nadu and reiterated his long-pending demand for a 'Sanatana Dharma Raksha Board'.

"We need a Sanatana Dharma Raksha Board where devotees actively manage their own temples and religious affairs. Mockery of Hindu traditions and rituals has become a norm for certain groups. Do they dare to do the same for other religious events? Does Article 25 become an optional right instead of a fundamental right to the Hindus?" Kalyan said.

He added that, "Hindus should observe the collective spirit and solidarity shown by practitioners of Abrahamic religions when religious issues arise." Further, he said that as long as Hindus remain divided by caste, regional, and linguistic barriers, the mockery, insults, and abuses against the Hindu religion and its practices shall continue.

Kerala CM calls expelled Cong MLA 'sexual pervert'

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan described expelled Congress MLA and rape accused Rahul Mamkootathil as a "sexual pervert", while Opposition leader VD Satheesan alleged that the MLA's arrest is being deliberately delayed to divert attention from the Sabarimala gold heist and other issues facing the government ahead of the local body polls.

Mamkootathil, the Palakkad MLA accused in two rape cases, has been absconding for the past nine days. There are allegations that he is being sheltered with the help of certain Congress leaders in Karnataka.

"From the complaints received against the MLA, it is clear that he is a sexual pervert. His actions were highly unbecoming of a legislator. Congress leaders continued to promote him even after being aware of his immoral conduct. By protecting such people, the Congress is tarnishing its own legacy," CM Vijayan told reporters in Kochi on Friday.

He also countered the Congress' criticism that the CPM had not acted against actor-turned MLA M Mukesh when a rape case was registered against him. "There are other Congress MLAs who have also faced rape cases, yet the party did not act against them," he said.

Congress smells ploy

Congress leader Satheesan said police could easily arrest Mamkootathil, but they were delaying it due to political pressure from the government. "The government's intention is nothing but to divert attention from the Sabarimala gold heist, in which CPM leaders are involved. The CPM wants to deflect focus from the anti-incumbency sentiment," he said.

Mamkootathil filed an anticipatory bail plea in the Kerala High Court on Friday, a day after a Thiruvananthapuram court rejected his earlier plea. He reiterated that his relationship with the complainant was consensual.

Tie-up buzz as Nadda visits J'khand

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Even as speculation grows over a possible BJP-JMM tie-up, saffron party president JP Nadda's sudden two-day visit to Jharkhand has raised eyebrows.

Nadda is in the state for a government programme, and party leaders insisted that his agenda includes only organisational meetings. On Thursday, BJP chief spokesperson Anil Baluni said Nadda will hold a meeting of the Jharkhand Pradesh BJP core committee in Deoghar on Friday evening.

Hemant Soren's Delhi visit also sparked NDA switch speculation.

Apart from the core committee meeting, Nadda will attend other programmes in the district, Baluni said. "On Saturday, he will offer prayers at the Baba Baidyanath Temple in Deoghar," he added.

Earlier this week, Jharkhand CM and JMM leader Hemant Soren made a sudden visit to Delhi, sparking speculation that the I.N.D.I.A bloc constituent might switch sides. There are also unconfirmed reports that Soren and his wife, MLA Kalpana Soren, are in talks to join the NDA and that a new government may be in the making.

The basis of the speculation is that several JMM leaders were unhappy with the seat distribution with Congress. There is also the speculation that some Congress MLAs are considering joining the new government.

The JMM has also been unhappy that seat-sharing talks in Bihar, where they wanted to contest in the tribal areas, remained inconclusive.

In the 81-member Assembly, the Congress has 16 MLAs, and they support the JMM, which has 34 seats. The majority mark is 41. The RJD is also a constituent in the government with four seats, as well as the CPI-ML(L) with two MLAs.

EC revises SIR schedule for Kerala in view of local polls

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PTI: The Election Commission of India on Friday decided to extend by one week the SIR schedule for Kerala in view of the upcoming local body polls in the state.

The local body polls will be held in the state on December 9 and 11 in two phases.

SC order

The commission's order comes after Kerala submitted a request, as permitted by the Supreme Court, to extend the last dates for submission of the enumeration forms and other procedures which are part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll.

Under the revised schedule, the draft electoral roll will be published on December 23 as against the earlier date of December 16.

The final electoral roll will be published on February 21, 2026 as against the earlier date of February 14, 2026, the commission said.

Govt reviving Mahatma Gandhi's rural upliftment vision: Shah

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: Alleging that the government forgot Mahatma Gandhi's vision of uplifting Indian villages a few years after Independence, Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday claimed that since 2014, the government has tripled the fund for rural development, agriculture and cooperation.

Amit Shah

"In 1930, Mahatma Gandhi had said that the idea of development cannot be conceived without considering villages. Unfortunately, in the few years after independence, we forgot this teaching of Gandhi. For rural development, the important elements, agriculture, animal husbandry, and cooperatives, were all neglected," Shah said while inaugurating the 2nd edition of 'Earth Summit' in Gandhinagar.

He said that since 2014, "a new era of transformation began in the country when Narendra Modi became the PM."

ED attaches fresh assets of Reliance Group

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Reliance Centre, a guesthouse and some residential assets in Mumbai, apart from 231 plots of land in Chennai, are among the fresh assets worth Rs 1,120 crore attached by the ED as part of its ongoing money laundering probe against the companies of Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani.

The properties belong to Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL) and Reliance Commercial Finance Limited (RCFL), and the probe is linked to an alleged fraud at the Yes Bank, the federal agency said in a statement on Friday.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) earlier froze properties worth more than Rs 8,997 crore of the business group. With the latest action, the total value of attachment of the Reliance Group stands at Rs 10,117 crore, it said.

The movable assets that have been attached include fixed and bank deposits and shareholdings in unquoted investments of the Reliance Anil Ambani Group, besides other entities. The total value of the attachment is Rs 1,120 crore, it said.

Netflix to buy Warner Bros Discovery's studios, streaming unit for $72 billion

The deal to hand control of one of Hollywood's most prized and oldest assets to the streaming pioneer

REUTERS

Netflix has agreed to buy Warner Bros Discovery's TV and film studios and streaming division for $72 billion, a deal that would hand control of one of Hollywood's most prized and oldest assets to the streaming pioneer that has upended the media industry.

The agreement - announced on Friday - follows a weeks-long bidding war where Netflix seized the lead with a nearly $28-a-share offer that eclipsed Paramount Skydance's nearly $24 bid for the whole of Warner Bros Discovery, including the cable TV assets slated for a spinoff.

Warner Bros Discovery shares closed at $24.5 on Thursday, giving it a market value of $61 billion.

Buying the owner of marquee franchises including 'Game of Thrones', 'DC Comics' and 'Harry Potter' will further tilt the power balance in Hollywood in favour of the streaming giant that built its dominance without major acquisitions or a large content library, helping its efforts to ward off competition from Walt Disney and the Ellison family-backed Paramount.

Analysts have said Netflix is driven by a desire to lock up long-term rights to hit shows and films and rely less on outside studios as it expands into gaming and looks for new avenues of growth after the success of its password-sharing crackdown.

But the deal will likely face strong antitrust scrutiny in Europe and the US as it would give the world's biggest streaming service ownership of a rival that is home to HBO Max and boasts nearly 130 million streaming subscribers.

David Ellison-led Paramount, which kicked off the bidding war with a series of unsolicited offers and has close ties with the Trump administration, questioned the sale process earlier this week in a letter alleging favourable treatment to Netflix.

To ease concerns about market concentration, Netflix argued in deal talks that a potential combination of its streaming service with HBO Max would benefit consumers by lowering the cost of a bundled offering.

The company has also told Warner Bros Discovery that it would keep releasing the studio's films in cinemas in a bid to ease fears that its deal would eliminate another studio and major source of theatrical films, according to media reports.

RBI raises GDP projection to 7.3%; pegs inflation at 2%

Guv says no targets for rupee, it's a market play

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday raised its projection on India's GDP growth for the current fiscal to 7.3% from its earlier estimate of 6.8%, after the first half numbers substantially exceeded targets.

The central bank has pegged the October-December quarter growth at 7%, while in January-March, it may decelerate to 6.5%.

India's GDP expanded by 7.8% and 8.2% in Q1 and Q2, respectively. The average growth in the first half of the year stands at 8%.

In its bi-monthly monetary policy review, the RBI has given projections for the first two quarters of 2026-27. In the April-June 2026 quarter, the GDP is projected to expand at 6.7%, while it is estimated to rise marginally to 6.8% in Q2 2026-27.

On inflation, the RBI has lowered its projection from 2.6% to 2%. The CPI-based retail inflation is projected at 0.6% in October-December quarter, and it may rise to 2.9% in the January-March period. It is expected to rise to 3.9% in the April-June 2026 quarter, and to 4% in the Q2 of 2026-27.

"Looking ahead, domestic factors such as healthy agricultural prospects, continued impact of GST rationalisation, benign inflation, healthy balance sheets of corporates, and financial institutions and congenial monetary and financial conditions should continue to support economic activity. Continuing reform initiatives would further facilitate growth," said RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

Reacting to the rupee slump, Malhotra said the exchange rates are determined by market forces and the central bank does not target any level.

The rupee fell below 90 against a dollar for the first time this week, closing at 89.98 on Friday.

RBI cuts policy interest rates by 25 bps; EMIs may fall

Announces $5 b dollar-rupee sell swap to stabilise currency

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday lowered key policy interest rates by 25 basis points that may make home, auto and other loans cheaper and boost consumption, as inflation has eased to a decadal low.

Repo rate, or the interest rate at which the central bank lends money to commercial banks, has been cut from 5.50% to 5.25%. Other policy rates have also been adjusted accordingly. Standing deposit facility rate has been lowered to 5%, while the marginal standing facility rate and the bank rate have been cut to 5.5%.

These policy interest rates have been lowered cumulatively by 125 basis points or 1.25 percentage points since February. The RBI's action has led to substantial reduction in interest rates on home, auto and other loans. Commercial banks lending and deposit rates are guided by these RBI policy rates.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, took a unanimous decision to lower the interest rates.

The MPC's decision comes days after the government data showed a sharp acceleration in economic growth, boosted by consumption demands. However, decadal low inflation seems to have dominated the MPC's move.

"The growth-inflation balance, especially the benign inflation outlook on both headline and core, continues to provide the policy space to support the growth momentum. Accordingly, the MPC unanimously voted to reduce the policy repo rate by 25 bps to 5.25%," Malhotra said.

India's GDP growth accelerated to six-quarter high of 8.2% in July-September period, while Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation eased to a record low of 0.25% in October, as per the latest official data.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra at RBI headquarters in Mumbai on Friday. AFP

Malhotra termed the low inflation and high economic growth a "rare goldilocks period."

"For the first time since the adoption of flexible inflation targeting (FIT), average headline inflation for a quarter at 1.7% in Q2:2025-26, breached the lower tolerance threshold (2%) of the inflation target (4%). It dipped further to a mere 0.3% in October 2025. On the other hand, real GDP growth accelerated to 8.2% in Q2, buoyed by strong spending during the festive season, which was further facilitated by the rationalisation of the GST rates," the RBI Governor said.

The MPC also decided to continue with the neutral policy stance. This means the RBI will make future decisions on interest rates based on how inflation and growth move.

In an effort to restore durable liquidity, the central bank has decided to purchase government bonds worth Rs 1 lakh crore through open market operations. It has also announced a $5 billion dollar-rupee sell swap to stabilise the falling rupee.

"Together, the rate cut, neutral stance, and targeted liquidity interventions aim to sustain economic momentum, while safeguarding price and financial stability," said SBI Chairman CS Setty.

Investors cheered the rate cuts. The benchmark Sensex jumped 447 points, while Nifty closed 153 points higher. There was strong buying support in financial and auto stocks.

Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director and CEO of Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, said rate cuts along with GST rate rationalisation would further accelerate growth of the Indian auto industry.

25 YEARS

EVs relevant, but India a multi-powertrain market: Skoda

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE
BENGALURU, DHNS

Skoda Kylaq

Skoda Auto, which completes 25 years in India this year, is taking a cautious, wait-and-watch approach towards electric mobility, even as it works to strengthen its overall product line-up in the country.

The Czech automaker sold close to 8,300 cars in India in October alone and has recorded 67,000 sales through November — its highest annual figures since entering the market. "We have more than doubled our sales this year, over 2024. Today, we are ranked seventh in the market, from 11th last year. We have also expanded to 320 touchpoints across 180 cities, and will add another 8-10 more touchpoints this year, and add another five cities," Skoda Auto India Brand Director Ashish Gupta said on Friday. He added that the company has sold 500,000 cars in India to date.

Skoda, on Friday, inaugurated a new dealership — Karr Skoda — in JP Nagar, Bengaluru.

This year, Skoda introduced the Kylaq and the all-new Kodiaq, and recently rolled out the Octavia RS. The Octavia was the model that defined the brand's entry into India over two decades ago. "Our customers are always looking for new cars, and that's also something we plan for next year. Meanwhile, we have product refreshes of the Slavia and Kushaq coming up, and are also looking to bring another batch of the Octavia RS. We also have a couple of other models lined up," Gupta said, without sharing details.

Globally, Skoda is a major EV player. Six months ago, it launched the all-electric Elroq compact SUV in Europe, which it says has become the region's best-selling EV.

According to a statement by the company, 100,000 units of the Elroq have already been built. However, India presents a different challenge. "We have a full EV portfolio worldwide. But as far as India is concerned... Even if we want to bring our EVs from Europe to India, the policy and regulations, and the price points at which we'll be compelled to sell them, won't be necessarily affordable in this market. You also won't get high volumes," Gupta told *DH*.

Skoda has been evaluating the launch of its premium electric SUV, the Enyaq, for two years. "If you bring this car into the country today, it would have to be sold in the price band of Rs 60-65 lakh. There's not a large-enough market for us to bring that car," Gupta noted, adding that the company is waiting for clarity around the new EV policy and FTA before finalising further plans.

"However, electric vehicles is a segment that any manufacturer who wishes to be relevant in India has to explore. That's our plan as well," he further shared, but stressed that the country will remain a multi-powertrain market, with 92% of buyers still choosing ICE, CNG, or hybrids. "The mistake most manufacturers made 5-6 years ago was to bet 100% on e-mobility... One has to curate a multi-powertrain strategy," he concluded.

Housing loan rates likely to drop as RBI cuts repo rate

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Home loan interest rates are likely to come down with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cutting the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25%, the lowest in over three years, on Friday.

"The RBI's decision to cut the repo rate by 25 bps is a distinct positive for the Indian real estate sector as we close 2025. Coming on the back of earlier easing cycles this year, this move further sweetens the value proposition for homebuyers, particularly in the affordable and mid-income segments, which are highly sensitive to interest rate fluctuations," said Anuj Puri, Chairman, ANAROCK Group.

With average housing prices across the top-7 cities having risen by notable double-digits (approx. 10%) in 2025, as per ANAROCK Research, this rate cut provides a critical cushion to affordability, potentially bringing home loan interest rates to more attractive levels. This can encourage aspiring homebuyers who had paused their decisions due to price hikes to finally take the plunge. "The rate cut is a distinct sentiment multiplier for year-end sales," he said.

For the residential segment, this rate cut builds on the momentum created during the recent festive season and GST rationalisation of key construction materials, said Vimal Nadar, National Director & Head, Research at Colliers India. "Lower borrowing costs will further improve affordability and buyer sentiment, particularly in affordable & mid-income housing segments. Additionally, steady growth in average income levels can potentially drive property enquiries and boost housing sales in the next few quarters," he said.

The rate cut will also help increase purchasing power of consumers and allow households to access loans, including home, car, and personal loans, at more comfortable rates, said Binitha Dalal, Founder and Managing Partner, Mt. K Kapital.

"By improving liquidity, encouraging consumption and strengthening market sentiment, this rate cut plays a meaningful role in sustaining India's growth trajectory and supporting the long-term health of the economy," she said.

However, the real impact hinges on the effective transmission of these benefits.

"If banks swiftly pass on this rate cut to borrowers, we anticipate a renewed surge in sales velocity carrying firmly into Q1 2026. The current trends indicate that luxury homes will continue to drive residential real estate in 2026, as well," Puri said.

The RBI's decision will significantly support housing demand in Tier-2 and 3 cities, where affordability plays a central role in purchase decisions and homebuyers are particularly sensitive to EMI movement, said Amrita Gupta, Director, Manglam Group.

"We expect renewed momentum across premium residential and large infrastructure-led developments as project execution accelerates," said Bhavik Khara, Whole-Time Director and CFO, Arisinfra Solutions Limited.

Piyush Bothra, Co-Founder & CFO, Square Yards, said the cut in repo rate offers a meaningful boost to the realty sector, reinforcing affordability at a time when buyer activity is already strengthening.

Airfares skyrocket as IndiGo crisis deepens

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE
BENGALURU, DHNS

Luggage of stranded passengers at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on Friday. PTI

Airfares across the country skyrocketed (in excess of Rs 1 lakh on certain routes) on Friday, following the cancellation of almost 1,000 flights on major domestic routes by India's largest airline, IndiGo — leaving thousands of passengers stranded and scrambling for alternatives at many airports.

Many passengers were forced to pay steep last-minute prices to travel on competing airlines. The impact was especially felt on India's busiest corridors: the Mumbai-Delhi sector — ranked the eighth busiest domestic route globally in 2024 — followed by Delhi-Bengaluru and Mumbai-Bengaluru.

With demand shifting abruptly to other carriers, fares soared. On Friday, tickets were seen priced as high as Rs 1.2 lakh in some sectors. A Delhi-Chennai fare, typically around Rs 10,000, was available in the Rs 40,000-90,000 band. Delhi-Bengaluru tickets were seen between Rs 93,000 and Rs 1,00,000, while even the lowest fares on budget carriers hovered around Rs 35,000. A Delhi-Mumbai ticket was selling at Rs 50,000-60,000.

Industry experts say such price shocks are the natural outcome of supply-demand imbalance. Airlines operate as capacity-based businesses, and ticket prices fluctuate dynamically based on demand, availability, and route load.

"Presently, IndiGo operates flights throughout India, covering most sectors. With its reach and seat availability, it's able to provide good service at a competitive fare. But when a situation like this arises, it puts passengers in the lurch, and that demand must be borne by other airlines, who would then tend to hike prices," said Vignesh Kamath, Managing Director of Travel Bird Vacations Pvt Ltd.

Kamath added that the situation is amplified during the festive season. Many of his own customers faced disruptions this week, after IndiGo cancelled flights to holiday destinations. Tickets on alternate carriers, he said, are now about 30% costlier on average.

Another industry expert, requesting anonymity, shared a recent experience: "An IndiGo ticket from Bengaluru to Mumbai had to be cancelled. When we checked later, Air India was pricing seats at Rs 40,000, while SpiceJet and Akasa Air were around Rs 35,000."

He explained that a "revenue management system" drives such price movement. "Suppose there's a plane with 180 seats, all won't be sold at the same price. It's like a seesaw. Some seats are initially sold at a loss to meet breakeven. After that point, the fares rise sharply. In high-demand situations, the spike becomes extremely visible. It's all demand and supply."

He noted that this pricing logic is automated and designed to adjust in real time, adding, "Even if an upper price cap is introduced, the lower cap will start climbing. Discounts won't function the same way."

Meanwhile, travel platforms are seeing a surge in support requests. A spokesperson for EaseMyTrip said: "We are witnessing a higher-than-usual inflow of customer queries and uptick in prices due to increased demand. We have strengthened our 24/7 customer support to offer timely assistance, real-time updates, and clear communication. Our priority is to minimise inconvenience and ensure every traveller receives the highest level of service."

IN BRIEF

Walmart-backed PhonePe's Pincode winds down B2C quick commerce ops

BENGALURU , DHNS: Fintech company PhonePe's subsidiary Pincode is winding down its B2C shopping app, and will focus on B2B business solutions for merchants.

"Pincode's mission is to empower Indian offline shopkeepers with advanced technology solutions to help them grow their businesses and remain competitive against new-age e-commerce and quick commerce companies. To this end, operating yet another B2C quick commerce app ourselves was distracting us from our core mission, which is to help offline business partners achieve operational efficiency, improved margins and visibility and growth in their existing offline business," PhonePe founder and Group Chief Executive Officer Sameer Nigam said.

"As part of this strategic decision, we will now focus the entire Pincode team's resources towards accelerating the build-out and scale-up of a suite of B2B business solutions for offline businesses across the country," Pincode Chief Executive Officer Vivek Lohcheb said.

Cristiano Ronaldo invests in ChatGPT-rival Perplexity

BENGALURU, DHNS: Portugal football legend Cristiano Ronaldo has strengthened his business portfolio off the pitch by investing in Indian-origin tech leader Aravind Srinivas' AI startup Perplexity.

Cristiano Ronaldo

"Curiosity is a requirement for greatness. You win when you keep asking new questions every day. That's why I am proud to announce my investment in Perplexity," Ronaldo posted on X.

To mark the partnership, the AI startup is launching a Cristiano Ronaldo hub - an interactive CR7 experience, where fans can explore his career, see rare images, browse curated questions, relive iconic goals, and dig into the stories behind them.

"It's an honour to be able to partner with Cristiano and welcome him as an investor to Perplexity. He's relentless and researches all the time on the latest techniques to recover and push the boundaries. We will work together to make Perplexity the best AI for asking questions," Srinivas said.

Ronaldo represents discipline, consistency, and reinvention across every stage of his career. He is more than football's all-time leading goal scorer, the AI startup said, adding that he is also a dedicated Perplexity user.

Taiwan's Allegiance Group to set up tech park in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, Government of Karnataka, on Friday announced the signing of an MoU with The Allegiance International Co. Ltd. of Taiwan to establish an Ind-Taiwan Industrial Park (ITIP) in the state.

Rahul Sharanappa Sankanur, Director, Department of Electronics, IT, BT and Lawrence Chen, VP, Allegience Group signed the MoU in the presence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and IT, BT minister Priyank Kharge.

This project will be undertaken by The Allegiance Group with a proposed investment of around Rs 1,000 crore, leading to the creation of about 800 direct jobs via the companies setting up operations in ITIP over a period of 5 years.

The ITIP will serve as a dedicated hub for Taiwanese companies in Electronics and Semiconductors, fostering advanced manufacturing, R&D, and Innovation. This collaboration aims to strengthen Karnataka's position as India's leading destination for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) and accelerate the growth of the semiconductor ecosystem in the state.

"This partnership marks a significant step towards realising Karnataka's vision of becoming a global hub for electronics and semiconductor innovation," Siddaramaiah said.

Lohit Bhatia becomes Quess Corp CEO

BENGALURU , DHNS: Staffing company Quess Corp has elevated Lohit Bhatia, effective January 1, 2026, from his current role as President – India and Global Operations, to CEO and Key Managerial Personnel (KMP). Bhatia will work closely with Executive Director Guruprasad Srinivasan.

Lohit Bhatia

Bhatia brings over 28 years of leadership across textiles, auto components, and services, with deep expertise in sales, business development, and large-scale manpower outsourcing. Since joining Quess Corp in 2011 as General Manager – Sales (Staffing), he has risen to lead India & Global Operations, scaling the Staffing business from 13,000 to over 480,000 associates and positioning Quess as the country's largest staffing enterprise and among the world's top four.

Quess Corp said Bhatia has strengthened technology-enabled service delivery, customer success, and margin improvement while working closely with the Professional Staffing teams to achieve double-digit margins and build a Rs 100 crore EBITDA run-rate business.

Moo wants STRIPES

Vaishnavi Sridhar writes about a pet calf who finds an unexpected fix for pesky flies

Eggy, what is new at the zoo?" Moo asked his best friend.

Moo was a pet calf. He lived on a farm with his family. He was best friends with Eggy, a cattle egret. Eggy and his family flew all around and brought back all the news they found.

"Moo, there are some new animals at the zoo. They have come from far away. They have stripes. They look like our friend Equu, the horse, but with white stripes. They are called zebras. It was fun chatting with them," said Eggy.

Though Moo wanted to listen to more of Eggy's stories, he was busy thinking of something else. The pesky biting flies were bothering him. He wanted to get rid of them. The situation was grim, and Moo's irritation had reached the brim. He waved his tail, trying to swat the flies.

"Moo, what is up with your tail? Is it those pesky flies again? Let me ease your pain," said Eggy, as he flew to eat the flies.

"Aah, what a relief. Thank you, my friend. These flies are a menace. I don't know why they like bothering me. There are so many more interesting things to eat," said Moo.

"I really wish I could get rid of them, but I don't know how," he added sadly.

"This is exactly what I was trying to tell you. The zebras at the zoo have a solution for this problem. They told me that their black and white stripes might be protecting them from the fly bites," said Eggy.

"Wow. How does that work?" asked Moo.

"The stripes cause confusion. It is all a game of illusion. Flies are masters at target finding. Now, we both use different senses to find our food. You use your nose and eyes to find grass. I use my eyes to find my food. The flies use a combination of signals to find their prey, including their eyesight," said Eggy.

"Flies are attracted to dark colours. If they see a single dark-coloured prey, then bull's-eye! There is no confusion. They land on their target easily. But when there is a white-and-black pattern, like zebra stripes, they get confused, and they are not able to land on their prey very well," he added.

"Woohoo! Patterns to the rescue! Now I want to be a zebra. I wish I had zebra patterns on my body," said Moo.

"Moo, now that is an idea. Maybe you should ask your human family to paint you," said Eggy, bidding adieu.

Moo decided to get painted in stripes. He had to find a way to share this with his human family. The young son of his human family often liked to read to Moo. He also spoke to Moo. "I will tell the young boy about the stripes. But how should I go about it?" wondered Moo.

One fine day, the opportunity arrived. "Hi Moo. How are you, my friend?" said the young boy. He had a paper in his hand. "Moo," said Moo, happily welcoming his friend.

"Today I'll read something interesting to you," said the young boy. Moo was excited. But the pesky flies came again. Moo started moving his tail to swat them away.

"Moo, these flies bother you, don't they? I have the perfect solution for you," said the young boy. It was as if the universe had listened to Moo. "Do you know that scientists have tried painting zebra-like white stripes on black cows in Japan? And guess what! These cows suffer fewer fly bites compared to black cows. Maybe we should put a zebra-like coat on you too, or probably paint you," said the young boy.

"Thank you, young boy," said Moo, mooing. "Sorry, pesky flies, but you cannot annoy me anymore. I am going to get a protective makeover," he added excitedly. He was looking forward to sharing this news with Eggy.

The young boy's family painted white stripes on Moo. Moo was loving his new look. Soon, Eggy came to visit Moo.

"Moo, Moo. Where are you?" said Eggy, looking for him.

"I am here, Eggy. How is my new look?" said Moo.

"I almost didn't recognise you, Moo! You look like those zebras. Did your human family paint you?" asked Eggy.

"Yes, they did!" said Moo, while telling Eggy how this had been tried and tested by Japanese scientists.

"Do these stripes only stop the biting flies? Or is there more to them? I should probably ask the zebras," said Eggy.

"Well, whatever else these stripes help with, I am waiting to experience those wonderful things too. But nothing beats not being bitten by those flies," said Moo.

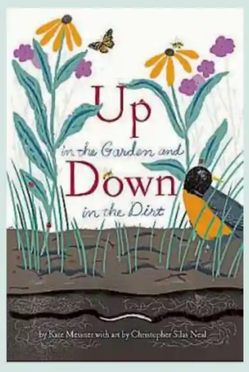
"These stripes have certainly brought out the poet in you, Moo. Wonder what other talents they will help uncover," said Eggy.

"With those pesky flies gone, I have a lot of time to explore, find out, and showcase my talents," said Moo.

4 BOOKS on why soil matters

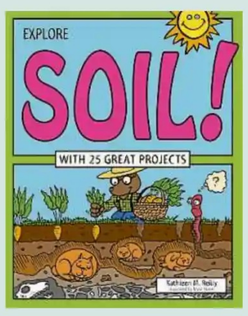
World Soil Day was on December 5

Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt



Written by Kate Messner and illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal, this picture book was published by Chronicle Books in 2017. It runs across 56 pages and follows a grandmother and her granddaughter as they tend their garden. While the story shows what happens "up in the garden" — seeds sprouting, plants growing, vegetables ripening — it also takes young readers "down in the dirt", where worms, insects, roots and tiny soil creatures work constantly under the surface. With poetic writing and detailed illustrations, the book transforms soil into a vibrant topic. It is suitable for 5- to 8-year-olds, and introduces children to the idea that soil is alive and connected to everything that grows.

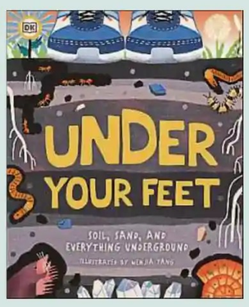
Explore Soil! With 25 Great Projects



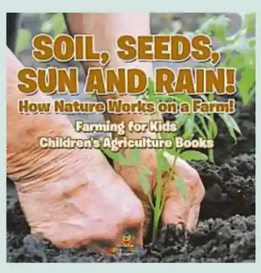
This activity-filled book by Kathleen M Reilly, was published by Nomad Press in 2015. It spans 96 pages and features illustrations by Bryan Stone. Instead of treating soil as a dry subject, it turns it into a hands-on adventure. The book explains what soil is made of, how it forms, and why it matters for water, food, climate and daily life. It also invites children to try 25 simple experiments and projects at home. Kids can analyse soil composition, make compost, see how soil filters water, and observe the process of erosion using real dirt. With cartoons and fact boxes, the book helps 7- to 10-year-olds understand soil better.

Under Your Feet: Soil, Sand and Everything Underground

Authored by the Royal Horticulural Society, and illustrated by Wenjia Tang, the book was released by D K Children in April 2020. It contains 64 pages of detailed illustrations and explanations tailored for children aged around 5 to 8. It explores the 'underground world' and why we need soil. It also talks about fungi networks, burrowing animals, and the microorganisms found in soil. The book explains how soil supports plants, animals and ecosystems, and throws light on soil diversity across the world.



Soil, Seeds, Sun and Rain! How Nature Works on a Farm!



Written and published by Baby Professor, this 2025 book can introduce 7- to 8-year-olds to the basic elements that make plants grow — soil, seeds, sunlight and rain. The book addresses questions like where food comes from, who harvests it and who puts it on the table? It explains farming and soil health using easy language and colourful illustrations.

Dear Rudolph, the RED-NOSED reindeer...

Open Sesame readers write letters to the famous reindeer who leads Santa's sleigh on Christmas Eve

To Rudolph,

Your red nose is awesome. You must be very smart, which is why you were chosen to lead Santa's sleigh. I would like to know the secret of your success.

I am always curious about new things, and enjoy learning new information. I hope you will enlighten me about yourself.

Wishing you a merry Christmas in advance.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

THAVISH K, 8
HUBBALLI, KARNATAKA

Dear Rudolph,

I'm a bit of a shy kid, but I have so many questions for you!

What is it like to be the one who guides Santa's sleigh? Do you ever get scared in the really foggy or snowy parts of the sky? I bet your nose is super warm, but what does it feel like on chilly days? Also, I wonder how you learned to be so brave even when everyone makes fun of you? I'd love to know what your favourite snack is on a long trip like on Christmas Eve, and if you have a special song you sing to stay awake.

Thank you for reading!

Love from a child who thinks you're the best reindeer,

DHRISHA SHARMA, 5
BENGALURU, KARNATAKA

Dear Rudolph,

I'm a little kid who is writing a letter to you because I have a few questions. Why is your nose so bright? Is it cold at the North Pole? What does it feel like to fly through the sky? Do you have any other special talents, besides your colourful nose? I've heard that you once guided Santa's sleigh through a big fog, and your nose helped everyone see clearly. What was it like to be the leader?

I hope you can answer some of my questions because I have been wondering about them for a long time.

I wish you a very merry Christmas, and that you have a great time with Santa and all the other reindeer.

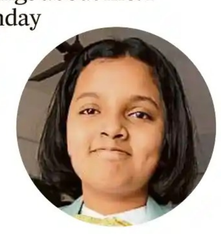
AMBER AHUJA, 5
CALIFORNIA, USA

Dear Rudolph,

I hope you are doing well. I am writing this letter to ask you some questions and to know more about you. I also want to share a few things about myself.

Why do you have a red nose instead of a normal one? Does Santa put you first in the sleigh because of your special nose? Are you from the North Pole or the South Pole? What is your favourite food? How old are you?

I would also like to share a few things about me. I am a fourth grade student. My birthday is on August 11. This Christmas, I want a dollhouse as a present. Can you make my wish come true, Rudolf?



Thank you.

Yours friendly,

SHAZIYA ANJUM, 10
TUMAKURU, KARNATAKA

LET'S DEBATE!

Want to take part in the upcoming *Open Sesame* debate? Share your thoughts in a crisp 200-word essay on the topic 'Should zoos exist?' Mail your works to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Entries close on December 25. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, school and city. And send us a recent photograph.

Word of the Week

efficacy

(noun)
— the ability of a treatment or solution to bring desired results

Usage:
— The officials are assessing the efficacy of the new measures.
— Sneha's team reviewed the efficacy of their last year's budget and plans.

This Week: Discover December

Open Sesame Quiz!

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 The United States entered World War II two years after it started. Which American naval base, in Hawaii, was attacked on December 7, 1941, causing President Roosevelt to take that step?

Q2 December 14 is World Monkey Day. In one of the fables in the 'Panchatantra', a monkey called Raktamukha outsmarts Karalamukha who betrays their friendship. Which animal is Karalamukha?

Q3 On December 25, 1066, William, the Conqueror, was crowned the first Norman king of England. Which battle did he win against Anglo-Saxon Harold II, to claim the throne?

Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: Born on December 30, 1865, Rudyard Kipling wrote the poem, __.
Clue B: Petty quarrel.

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** Dharmendra was born on December 8, 1935. Which of his 1975 films was directed by Ramesh Sippy?
Use these clues.
a) Veeru
b) Thakur
c) Ramanagara
d) Gabbar

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: Saanvi Sharat (11), Alnavar; Yathvik Gowda (12), Harihar; Asiyah Koppal (11), Bengaluru.

POETS IN THE MAKING

Want to see your poetry in print?

Send in poems on the topic 'If I were an animal' to *Open Sesame*. You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work — not more than 12 lines — to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Entries close on December 11. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

ART CORNER

Love painting?

Want to showcase your flair for colours? Send your paintings on the theme 'Season's specials' to *Open Sesame* and stand a chance to get featured in an upcoming edition. Mail photographs of your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph of yourself. Entries close on December 18.

A S Krishnamurthy (left) points to the site where the crew built a mosque.
DH PHOTOS/B K JANARDHAN

The site where Gabbar Singh famously asked 'Kitne aadmi the?'.

Ramanagara and the embers of Sholay

The blockbuster, marking its 50th year, was shot against a spectacular range of rocky hills near Bengaluru. S R Ramakrishna brings back memories from the locations

Often described as India's biggest box office sensation — they say its tickets outsold modern-day blockbusters 'RRR' and 'Bahubali' put together — 'Sholay', the 1975 film is not without its share of critics.

Some say the story, written by Salim-Javed, is a mish-mash of Hollywood and Japanese classics; others say it has no moral centre. But no one denies that 'Sholay' enjoys an iconic status in Indian film history. A hundred theatres screened the film without a break for 25 weeks, and 60 theatres for 50 weeks. Silver jubilees and golden jubilees, these milestones were called in a pre-multiplex, pre-OTT era.

In Ramanagara, about an hour and a half by road from M G Road, Bengaluru, 'Sholay' is a bunch of sepia memories.

Boramma was seven when the unit came and camped at Konkanidoddi, a village with just a couple of streets, near Ramanagara. She used to go with her parents to watch the shooting, and one day, she was roped in for a scene. Dacoits come galloping on horses, and leave the village in a disarray. As the cameras rolled, Boramma found herself in the middle of the action, and was pushed to the ground. She was bruised, and once the shot was done, she became the centre of attention. The stars gathered around her, picked her up in their arms, and calmed her down.

"Dharmendra sir and Amjad Khan sir spoke words of consolation, and Reshma, the dupe for Hema Malini, took special care of me," says Boramma.

In subsequent years, Reshma kept in touch with Boramma, who has five children, all married. Last year, she was invited to Mumbai for Dharmendra's birthday, and the hosts had made bookings for her and a daughter to accompany her. "I couldn't go, and now I hear the news that he is gone," she says.

Dharmendra was the one who socialised easily with the people in Konkanidoddi. "They called it Sippynagar for a while," she says. The film was produced by G P Sippy and directed by his son Ramesh Sippy. The other hero, Amitabh Bachchan, was reticent, like the character Jai he plays in 'Sholay'. "Dharmendra and the other actors spoke in Hindi and we spoke in Kannada, and all of us ended up laughing," she recalls.

The unit camped in the village between 1973 and 1975, with the unit coming mostly from Mumbai. "They had erected sheds for them to stay," she recalls. "And they fed the entire village all through the shooting years." She talks fondly about Reshma, who still keeps in touch with her.

Boramma was seven when she was cast in a scene where dacoits on horseback gallop into the village, leaving it in disarray.

The horses came from Tamil Nadu, says A S Krishnamurthy, who has built Srikrishna Smruti Kalyana Mantapa on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway. A huge Hanuman statue stands adjoining the building, and a path nearby leads to where the film was shot. A residential layout and a colony of Iruliga tribals have come up along the way. "They erected a mosque here, and two water tanks," he says, pointing to a place not too far from the highway. The unit had taken the land on rent from the owners, who have now fenced it and placed a gate.

In a comedy interlude in an otherwise intense revenge drama, Dharmendra, playing Veeru, climbs up the water tank and threatens to jump if he can't marry Basanti, played by Hema Malini. While the first tank was shot from below to indicate the elevation, the second was just a set on the ground depicting the top of the tank. Krishnamurthy, who was a teen when the film was shot, remembers how Dharmendra and Amitabh came riding on a motorcycle from Doddaalada Mara (the big banyan tree), when they were shooting for the song 'Yeh dosti.'

The landscape, dotted with spectacular monoliths, is what brings film units from all over India to Ramanagara. Krishnamurthy, 84, had seen a film unit shooting a car falling from a hilltop before the 'Sholay' unit came camping. "Several Kannada, Tamil and Telugu films were shot here subsequently," he says. In 1984, parts of David Lean's film 'Passage to India' were shot here. "They created window-like openings by blasting the rocks," he recalls. The rock face was used to represent Marabar Caves, the fictional Bihar locale where the E M Forster novel is set. A proposal to carve out a Buddha from one of the monoliths is on hold because of environmental concerns. Leopards are occasionally sighted in the area.

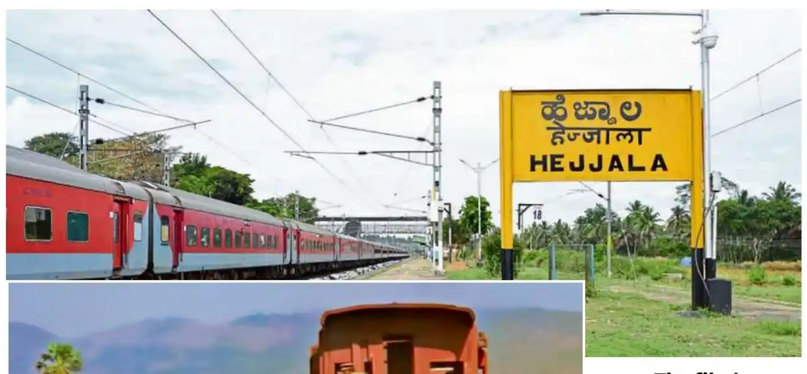
The stars who came to shoot for 'Sholay' stayed at Hotel Ashok, now called the Lalit Ashok, and Hotel Bangalore International, and drove to the location every day. The unit built a curving road for their vehicles to reach the spot, and it remains to this day, providing access to Ramadevarabetta, a hill with a couple of temples and a panoramic view. The stacking of stones suggest a fort-like structure dating back to Kempegowda's time (16th century), and some of the diabolical Gabbar Singh scenes ('Arre o Samba!') were shot against this background.

Not much has been done to promote Ramadevarabetta as a tourist or pilgrim destination, and that keeps it relatively free of crowds. It takes a 400-step climb to get to the top of the hill, a favourite with young couples who like the sights and sounds of the wooded ascent, not to speak of the privacy.

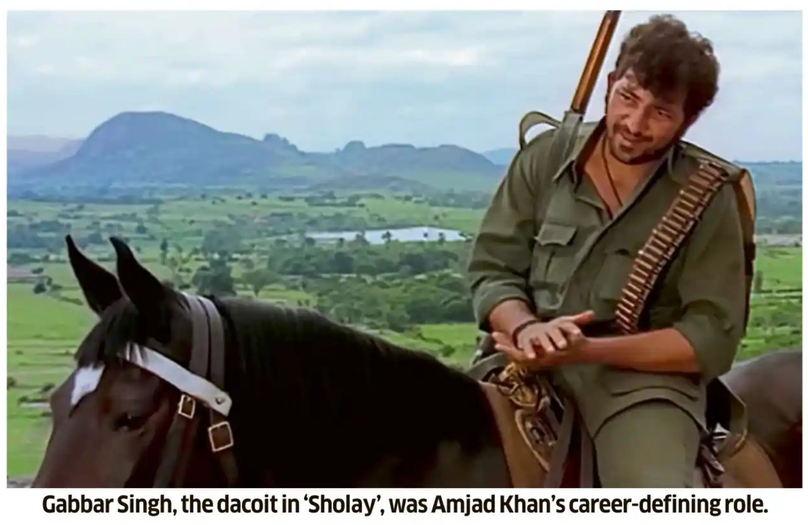
Ramanagara district was officially renamed Bengaluru South in May this year, and that has helped real estate prices inch up, says S Rudreshwara, a journalist whose doctoral thesis documents the cultural practices of the tribal communities of the district. Ramanagara was the name Kengal Hanumanthaiah, chief minister between 1952 and 1956, gave to the place. In the British era, it was called Closepet, after Sir Robert Close (1756-1813), a general in the East India Company. In Tipu Sultan's time (late 18th century), the town was called Rahimnagar and Shamserabad. The legend goes that Rama shot Kakasura, a demon in the form of a crow, for tormenting Sita, and created a pond by shooting another arrow into a rock. The water body next to the Rama temple is believed to be this pond, and Rudreshwara says crows are rarely seen around the hill.

The vulture sanctuary nearby harks back to the Jatayu story in the 'Ramayana'. The bird makes a heroic attempt to save Sita from Ravana, and Ravana, the story goes, chops off one of his wings and leaves him mortally wounded. "We see only two vultures these days," says Krishnamurthy, pointing to a perch on a hill. The Rama legend segued into the 'Sholay' screenplay — the village terrorised by Gabbar Singh was called Ramgad.

'Sholay' was screened in '70 mm with stereophonic sound'. The spectacular train scenes, which open the film, were shot in Hejjala, an hour's drive from Ramanagara. "They had permission to shoot there, although Ramanagara also has a station. Hejjala was a less busy station, and they could shoot at their pace," says Krishnamurthy.



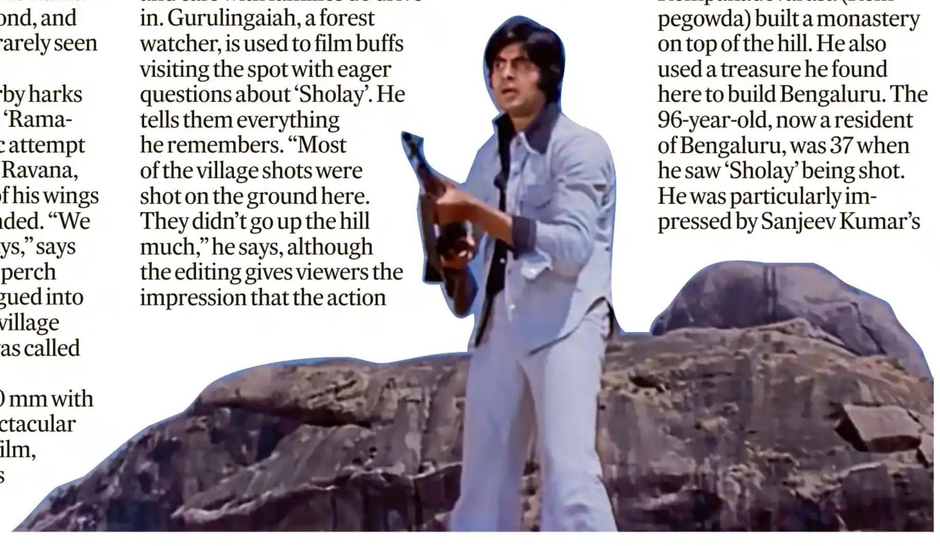
The film's spectacular train scenes were shot in Hejjala, a quiet railway station in Bengaluru South district.



Gabbar Singh, the dacoit in 'Sholay', was Amjad Khan's career-defining role.

Much of the location is now under the forest department, and cars with families do drive in. Gurulingaiah, a forest watcher, is used to film buffs visiting the spot with eager questions about 'Sholay'. He tells them everything he remembers. "Most of the village shots were shot on the ground here. They didn't go up the hill much," he says, although the editing gives viewers the impression that the action is set in a remote village surrounded by rocky hills. The location is barely a five-minute drive from the highway.

Amitabh Bachchan against the rocky boulders, many of which are covered with shrubs today.



M G Nagaraja, historian, says an inscription dating back to 1540 AD shows that Kempanadevarasa (Kempegowda) built a monastery on top of the hill. He also used a treasure he found here to build Bengaluru. The 96-year-old, now a resident of Bengaluru, was 37 when he saw 'Sholay' being shot. He was particularly impressed by Sanjeev Kumar's histrionics. "Hema Malini used to go in a tonga to Bidadi for fun," he says.

As for the moral centre question, what exactly does 'Sholay' say? Perhaps that drifters can be heroes — they can pull off what regular people, including upright policemen, can't. Friends can be opposite poles, and yet remain steadfast. Not all criminals are the same. Some, like Gabbar Singh, are pure evil, while others, like Jai and Veeru, can have a heart of gold. Given the right circumstances, even simple village folks can rise in revolt against a cruel oppressor. Love and honour shine and fade in ways we can never predict. And, going by the story of Boramma and Dharmendra, warmth cuts across barriers of language, class and distance.

And as for Ramgad, it also stays in the memory of a Malayali family that runs a vegetarian restaurant across the highway. They used to run a canteen at the Ramanagara railway station when 'Sholay' was shot around here. Their restaurant is called Hotel Ramgad. And their sambar is arre oh good!

Like this story? Email: dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

Jai-Veeru ride under the canopy of Doddaalada Mara (the big banyan tree) in the friendship anthem 'Yeh dosti'.

To allow the actor's vehicles to reach the set, the unit constructed a winding road that remains to this day and provides access to Ramadevarabetta.

Hotel Ramgad is named after the fictional village in 'Sholay'.

One of the tanks they created for Dharmendra's comedy sequence where he threatens to jump off if Basanti (Hema Malini) doesn't marry his character Veeru.

MUSICANA

Hindustani vocalist turns to Bhojpuri folk tune to celebrate monsoon

Vidya Shah's latest song is an ode to the handloom weavers of India, writes Rashmi Rajagopal

Hindustani vocalist Vidya Shah strongly believes that music is connected to everything. In her latest song, 'Siyaah — Chhayi ghata ghanghor', she pays homage to the handloom weavers of India. "The weavers often sing while weaving and this way they are connected to music," the Delhi-based singer says.

The song is part of the album 'Humsaaz', which also features songs by other noted artistes such as Swanand Kirkire, Sonam Kalra and Ananyaa Gaur.

In 'Siyaah — Chhayi ghata ghanghor', Vidya sings about the beauty of the monsoon. "It celebrates the darkness of the clouds. It talks about a woman waiting for a lover who refuses to come," she explains. The track is a soulful kajri, a Bhojpuri folk song. The song was recorded in a couple of hours, she tells *DHonSaturday*.

Vidya grew up in Delhi of the '70s in a south Indian household where "cultural pursuits were the norm". She was initially trained in Karnatik music. "A teacher would come home to train me. It was a beautiful experience," she recalls. She was 12 when she began training.

But years later, she would reconsider her options. "Karnatik music is great and I continue to return to it now and again, but I love the leisurely nature of Hindustani music and the way it sounds. So I began training under Shubha Mudgal," she shares.

Vidya Shah recorded 'Siyaah – Chhayi ghata ghanghor' in a few hours.

While the raag is similar in both traditions, the approaches are different. So the strong foundation in Karnatik music helped her when she made the switch. The concepts of timing and taal are different, for instance. "In Hindustani, they are more drawn out," Vidya explains. In Karnatik music, the varnams are great for solo practice, she says, adding that she often returns to it but has not performed it publicly in decades.

The genre has an element of repetition and Vidya strives to make the music her own whenever she performs. "Most of my performances come with an element of a story or concept," says Vidya, who performs an eclectic range of genres such as thumri, ghazal, khayal and bhajan. She is also collaborating with an experimental jazz musician, and a Spanish musician who is attempting to revive the zanfona, a Medieval stringed instrument.

One of Vidya's most noteworthy works is the exhibition and concert titled 'Women on record'. She paid homage to women musicians from the gramophone era by performing their music. "It has been a great experience travelling with it to multiple cities," she states.

She is currently working on a series of essays about women in early theatre and talkies. "It will cover genres like nautanki and Parsi theatre," she reveals, adding that the collection will be out by Women's Day next year.

How the box office reacts to crime by celebrities is an intriguing story. Darshan, whose 'The Devil' is slated for release next week, is behind bars in a murder case

Can stars shine even after BREAKING THE LAW?

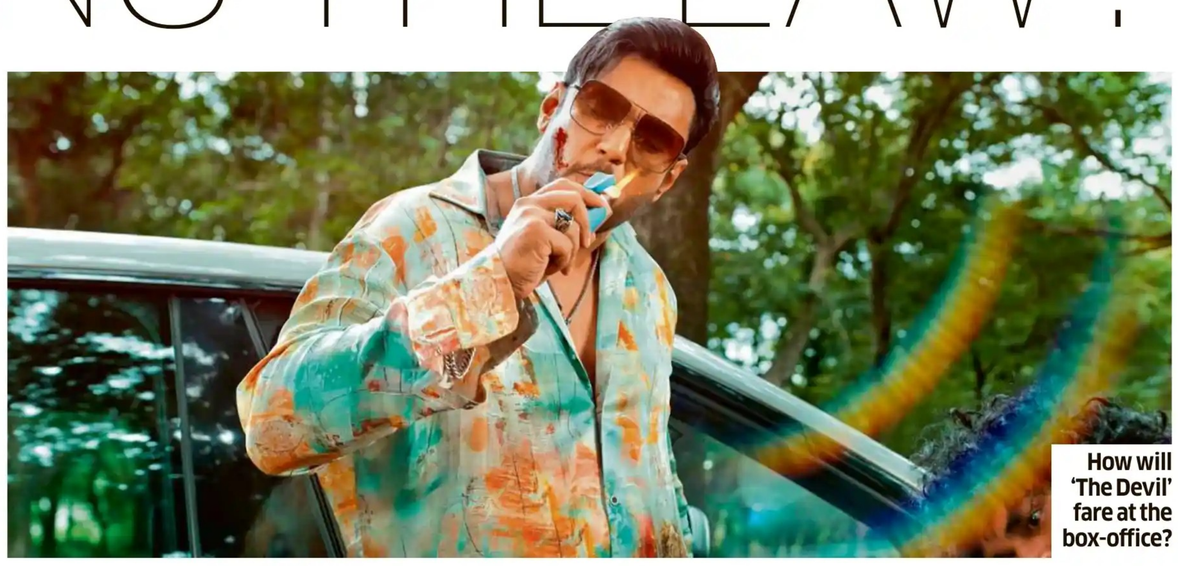
PRANATI A S
TEAM SHOWTIME

'The Devil' hits screens next week, even as its hero Darshan is behind bars, awaiting trial in a murder case. Its box office prospects are in focus amid debates about fan adoration for stars accused of heinous crimes.

Darshan was arrested in June 2024. He and his associates are accused of torturing and killing Renukaswamy, who allegedly sent lewd messages to co-accused Pavithra Gowda, Darshan's friend and co-actor.

Darshan completed shooting for the film when he was out on bail. 'The Devil' is directed by Prakash, who made the 2007 hit 'Milana' starring Puneet Rajkumar.

Back in 2011, Darshan was arrested on charges of domestic violence. Two weeks after his arrest, his film 'Sarathi' was released, and it became a commercial success. Extra screens were added to meet fan demand. The charges against him had not affected his box office appeal.


How will 'The Devil' fare at the box-office?

Sanjay Dutt case

In April 1993, when Sanjay Dutt was arrested for illegal possession of arms, he was shooting for Subhash Ghai's 'Khal Nayak'. He was out on bail 15 days later. The movie hit screens in October and was a blockbuster.

"The film would have done well even under normal circumstances, it was a much anticipated movie. But going forward, the arrest impacted his career badly. He was at the peak of his career when this happened," a film industry insider based in Mumbai says.

Some of his earlier films like 'Saajan' and 'Sadak' had been massive hits. But his arrest — the ones who had given him the arms were associated with the 1993 Mumbai bombings — slammed the brakes on his box office popularity, and he could not sign new films.

The projects he had signed with big producers were shelved. There was so much uncertainty about his status that no producer was ready to sign him, says an analyst. "He had to take up smaller films. He would come out on parole to finish his projects," they say.

Dutt's only hit after 'Khal Nayak' — and Rajkumar Hirani's 'Munnabhai' franchise — was his own biopic, 'Sanju' (2018), released two years after he completed his term in prison. Dutt tried to white-wash his image with the film. The biopic was again directed by Hirani, who had a squeaky clean image because of the feel-good 'Munnabhai' movies.

"It was a well thought out plan. The same technique was used by Aaryan Khan with 'B***ds of Bollywood'. Instead of being defensive, they get aggressive. In 'Sanju', Dutt took it out on the media and tried to portray an innocent image of himself," a Mumbai-based film critic says.

A younger hero, Ranbir Kapoor, played Dutt. "The film was validation for him but for most of the audience, it was just a big movie," they say.

Salman's comeback

Salman Khan's career, however, was not affected by the two cases he was accused in — killing of a black buck in Rajasthan while shooting for 'Hum Saath Saath Hai' in 1998, and culpable homicide for negligent driving in which he allegedly ran over five people and killed one in 2002.

"He was scared when the black buck killing incident took place because there was enough proof for it. He still continues to receive threats from Rajasthan from those who revere the black buck," the journalist adds. But eventually, the case did not dent his popularity.

Sanjay Dutt had a terrorist tag attached to him but nobody saw Salman Khan as a murderer who had killed someone deliberately. It was seen as an accident, the critic says.

Murder of journalist

Another interesting case dates back to 1944, when M K Thyagaraja Bhagavathar, Tamil cinema's first superstar, was jailed for the murder of a journalist.

His 'Haridas', released in the same year, ran for three years at a theatre in the then Madras presidency. The singer-actor was in jail during this period. He was acquitted and released in 1947. "On his release, he did not get a grand welcome, and neither was he remembered as a superstar. And the films he did afterwards were rejected at the box office," film historian K Puttaswamy says. Fan culture was not so intense in those days, he observes.

Polanski on the run

Polish-French filmmaker Roman Polanski who made ground-breaking films like 'Rosemary's Baby' (1968) and 'The Pianist' (2002), has been accused of sexual assault and rape over several decades.

He is a convicted felon in the United States, having pleaded guilty to unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor in 1977. He fled the country to avoid further jail time. He remains a fugitive in the US. However, to this day, film festivals, including prestigious ones in Venice and Cannes, continue to screen his films.

In 1980, Puttaswamy recalls, Polanski was invited to Filmotsav 1980, a fortnight-long international film festival in Bengaluru. "His 'Repulsion', 'China Town' and 'Rosemary's Baby' were screened and he attended the screenings. He travelled with bodyguards from Europe. A huge crowd gathered to see him. It is difficult to understand when a film celebrity is rejected and when he is celebrated," he says.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

Fan culture

The need to admire, respect or be in awe of anything or anyone is an inherent need in all, says Mala Sridhar, who used to teach psychology at NMKRV College for Women in Bengaluru. "This awe assures us that we are capable of admiring and appreciating good things in life. This is vital in forgiving errant behaviour," she says.

Public memory is short, and fans are capable of continued adoration. "The initial shock and disbelief leads to a string of emotional responses, including denial, blaming and being doubtful about the star's direct involvement. When authentic evidence piles up, a mild shift occurs: he may have been a victim of circumstances. And empathy rules," she explains.

According to Tissy Mariam, socio-psychologist based in Kerala, fanhood is just social behaviour. "Individuals try to identify with a reference group, often connected to a celebrity. This parasocial relationship, common in collectivistic societies, leads to idol worship and loosening of individual identity and moral standards. The inhibitory control in the brain is weakened, allowing fans to accept the actions of their idol, even if they contradict personal values," she says.

Fan loyalty, she argues, reflects "identity confusion and the need for belonging, which can lead to intense obsession and a disregard for personal standards".

Fan culture also varies from one society to another, she says, citing the example of Malayalam star Dileep — arrested for the abduction and sexual assault of actress Bhavana in 2017. The case led to the formation of the Hema committee last year to look into cases of sexual harassment and working conditions for women in the film industry. "After this, all his movies turned out to be flops because nobody was ready to watch them," Mariam says.

Sociologist Sudha Sitharaman, who teaches sociology at Pondicherry University, says, "Popular public figures strongly influence society, yet much of this influence is emotional, not grounded in evidence. In a system shaped by patriarchy and such other power structures, facts often get sidelined — and we must consciously bring them back."

'There is an audience for every kind of film'

Nayana Bijli, director of PVR-INOX's distribution wing, tells Pranati A S that the last four months were driven by regional and foreign language content

PVR-INOX Pictures, the distribution wing of the multiplex chain distributed about 78 films in this financial year, so far, including the recently released 'Eternity', 'Nuremberg' and 'One Battle After Another'. They are all set to release Gurinder Chadha's 'Christmas Karma' British Christmas musical comedy next week.

Nayana Bijli, director of PVR-INOX Pictures talks to Showtime about how they pick movies for distribution in India.

Excerpts:

How is the cinema market in India today?

We are seeing a lot of films, particularly global productions, that are resonating with Indian audiences. Even at a local level, mid-budget and non-star films are doing well. Films like 'Saiyaara' and 'Mahavatar Narasimha', which were not considered to be big tentpole films contributed to footfalls. The success of movies like 'Mahavatar Narasimha' showed that there is an appetite for spiritual and religious films too.

Nayana Bijli of PVR Pictures.

This quarter has also been largely driven by regional and foreign language content. Some of the niche titles are finding niche audiences — 'Nuremberg' for example. One of the biggest insights from this year is that there is an audience for every kind of film.

How do you pick movies to distribute in India?

We look at commercial appeal, while ensuring that the film has a strong cast that Indian audiences are familiar with. Secondly, we look at who the partner is. We work with entertainment companies like A24, Lions Gate, FilmNation, Black Bear — we have released quite a few of their films in India. These are some key Hollywood partners we work with because their films have worked in India. We also try to ensure that the films we buy resonate with Indian audiences — romantic comedies like 'Eternity', which is playing right now. We also aim to bring films that have Indian themes like Gurinder Chadha's 'Christmas Karma' — which is about family, immigration and identity. Even action films work well here. And then finally we give importance to movies with commercial actors — at the beginning of next year we are releasing Timothée Chalamet's 'Marty Supreme'.

PVR in the past brought world cinema, like Asghar Farhadi's 'The Salesman' in 2017. People were excited about it. But we have not seen such films here of late...

We attend all the markets at Berlin and Cannes, etc. We try to acquire films that we think will have a strong resonance in India provided it makes commercial sense and comes from a key partner. Sometimes, the deal does not work out and we miss out on a film. Other times, it is probably not available for India, or the filmmaker does not want to release it here.

What is your opinion on the severe censorship of movies in India today?

I think there definitely has been a change in censorship, at least from when I was a teenager. In terms of just consumption, we have to understand that the Indian consumer has access to a lot — OTT is not censored at all, and there are different methods of consumption. We have to consider that the theatre is a public space and the films have to align with the type of audience that's coming in. Censorship has definitely changed keeping in mind the changing trends in how films are consumed. We consume all sorts of content. That is being reflected in the changes.

MOVIE REVIEWS

Tender story of loss

SAVITHA KARTHIK

★★★★½

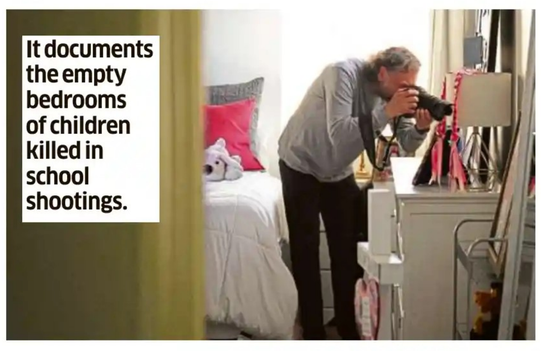
All the Empty Rooms
English (Netflix)
Director: Joshua Seftel

School shootings in the US make headlines so often that they leave behind only a numbness in their wake. After a flurry of 'thoughts and prayers' on social media, all is forgotten. But CBS news correspondent Steve Hartman didn't forget. Over the last seven years, Hartman and photographer Lou Bopp visited the bedrooms of eight school shooting victims. Some of their stories feature in 'All the Empty Rooms', a tenderly told story of loss, consciously avoiding perpetrator points of view.

In 2019, 14-year-old Dominic Blackwell lost his life in a California school shooting. The camera zooms into a basket of his laundry, still preserved in his room. Hartman and Bopp visit the family of Hallie Scruggs who died in a 2023 school shooting in Nashville. "I wanted her smell back. I wanted to touch her, and I wanted to feel her sweaty hair," the dad tells the duo.

All through, the camera pans to the children's personal effects — stuffed animals, posters on the wall, a tilted bucket of crayons, and clothes on hangers. A letter from school shooting victim Gracie Muehlberger to her future self is perhaps one of the most touching scenes. "OMG, it's high school. I have been waiting for this forever," the father reads, choking through his tears.

At no point does the short make you feel like a voyeur, and therein lies its strength. A minor quibble: some more perspectives from neighbours, teachers and school mates may have added more depth. That aside, in under 35 minutes, the documentary makes for an important watch.


It documents the empty bedrooms of children killed in school shootings.

A long-winding game of chess

TAHER AHMED

★★½☆☆

Dhurandhar
Hindi (Theatres)
Director: Aditya Dhar
Cast: Ranveer Singh, Sara Arjun, Akshaye Khanna, R Madhavan, Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Rampal

Ranveer Singh in 'Dhurandhar'.

As far as spy thrillers go, there are barely a few that leave a mark on the big screen. 'Dhurandhar' might be an exception to this list, as it packs a punch, especially through its star cast.

Ranveer Singh immerses himself in the character of Hamza Ali, an Indian spy who is part of a long-term plan to destabilise the enemy from within. Hamza is able to infiltrate the gang of Rehman Dakait (Akshaye Khanna), a gangster from the Karachi underworld who is the kingmaker in the country's political setting.

Set against the backdrop of the IC-814 hijacking and the parliament attack, the movie delves into the mind of Ajay Sanyal (R Madhavan), the chief of The Intelligence Bureau. Plagued by internal inefficiencies and corruption, Sanyal begins the long-drawn plan to plant assets within the enemy.

Earning Rehman's trust allows Hamza access to major players within the ISI, as he climbs up the ladder to establish a stronghold for himself.

Sanjay Dutt is menacing as SP Aslam Choudhary, a cop bent on destroying the underworld. There is no doubt that the performances of the lead cast are top-notch, backed with equally impressive cinematography and soundtrack.

The downside of this thriller is the runtime and the ending, for the climax is rather insipid. The storytelling does its best to hold your attention. But it soon loses track as different plots and characters emerge at different levels. The action is fast paced and certain scenes hit the spot.

Overall, one could say that this is a Ranveer and Akshaye show. The movie gives a glimpse into the world of our unsung heroes.

Mammooty stuns as a chilling villain

ANUSHA MARY JONES

Mammooty plays a complex character.

★★★★½

Kalamkaval
Malayalam (Theatres)
Director: Jithin K Jose
Cast: Mammooty, Vinayakan, Gibin Gopinath, Rajisha Vijayan

Mammooty's latest offering will leave the audience impressed by its villain, Stanley Das, a complex and disturbing character played by the star. In our inability to relate with him, let alone have an ounce of sympathy for the diabolical being, we come to admire his façade.

Almost every Malayalam crime thriller comprises a holy trinity of characters — journalists, a victimised woman and the quintessential policeman who is often the villain in disguise. Set between the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, 'Kalamkaval' follows two police officers looking for missing or perhaps murdered women. Stanley aids fellow cop Jayshankar aka 'Nath' (Vinayakan), the supposed 'hero' who cracks the case.

The crux of the film lies in the bloody desire to kill — a murder addict who romances women, lures them into dingy hotel rooms and then kills them after sex, to satisfy a kink he nurtures in secret.

The film leaves the audience grappling with anticipation, whilst creating an internalised sense of horror within the female psyche much after the credits roll. The versatility shown by the cast, especially Vinayakan, who is usually seen in profligate roles deserves applause.

The film's disclaimer may state that the film is purely a "work of fiction", and any resemblance being "purely coincidental", but the coincidence holds a mirror to the world around us, demanding accountability and safety.

To conclude, the movie does a fabulous job of educating people about the dangers lurking beneath burning love.

Gentle movie on the famous and the lonely

RASHMI VASUDEVA

★★½☆☆

Jay Kelly
English (Netflix)
Director: Noah Baumbach
Cast: George Clooney, Adam Sandler, Laura Dern

Adam Sandler and George Clooney in the film.

'Jay Kelly', the movie, is about movies, stardom, fame, and the glamour of it all. Jay Kelly, the man, is someone who has lived three-quarters of his life mistaking it all for the real thing. What Noah Baumbach delivers here is an autopsy of fame, peeled back layer by layer. In Jay's tired eyes, you see the rot of lifelong loneliness finally closing in.

There isn't much plot, and that takes nothing away from the pleasure of watching it. The film follows superstar actor Jay Kelly (George Clooney), who receives a jolt when his mentor dies unexpectedly, prompting him to shed his smugness and embark on a path of self-reckoning. Kelly also undertakes a literal journey, in a rickety Italian train no less, accompanied by his long-time emo manager (Adam Sandler doing a star turn), to rural Tuscany — ostensibly for a tribute, but really to spend a few days with his daughter, who is flying the coop. Each coach he enters becomes a metaphorical step back into his past, and each closed door deepens his disquiet; a moving cinematic device that shows a man how much of his life he has lived without truly inhabiting it.

This is a tender, immersive performance by Clooney, who arguably understands what it takes to be a globally adored actor, warts and all, more than most others. Although slow-paced and predictable, the film remains immensely watchable, reminding you in every other frame that you cannot outrun loneliness.

IN BRIEF

Adhish to face Dhanush in title clash

▸ Third-seeded Adhish PM of Karnataka stunned his top-seeded State-mate Thanush Shekar 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in the semifinals to set up a title clash with fourth seed Dhanush SM, also from Karnataka, in the AITA U-12 National Series Tennis Tournament at the Infinity Tennis Academy on Friday, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

Dhanush defeated second seed Riaan Nandakumar of Gujarat in the other semifinals 7-5, 7-5.

In the girls singles semifinal, second seed Aneeksha of Telangana outplayed third seed Kaashvi Konanki to move into the final where she will meet the fourth seed Ruhi Singh of Karnataka who shocked the top seed Anisha Marian Cornelio of Karnataka 6-1, 7-5 in the other semifinals.

Senthilkumar, Anahat champs

▸ National champions Velavan Senthilkumar and Anahat Singh clinched the men's and women's titles respectively at the Squash Indian Tour 4, which concluded at the Indian Squash Academy, here Friday, reports PTI from Chennai.

Top seed and World No. 46 Senthilkumar overcame Egypt's Adam Hawal 11-7, 11-9, 9-11, 11-4 to lift the men's crown.

In the women's final, Delhi teenager Anahat Singh beat Joshna Chinappa in a pulsating five-game contest, winning 11-8, 11-13, 11-13, 11-6, 11-8.

SMAT Super League shifted to Pune

NEW DELHI, PTI: The BCCI has been forced to shift the Super League phase matches of the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy, including the marquee final, from Indore to Pune due to logistical reasons, secretary Devajit Saikia on Friday.

The group league stages of the National T20 championship are currently being held in Hyderabad, Lucknow, Ahmedabad and Kolkata and the Super League stage, including the summit clash, were scheduled at Indore.

The Super League Stage is scheduled to start from December 12 with final being slated on December 18.

It is learnt that it was on request of Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association which cited the paucity of hotel rooms during the said period with as many as eight teams with jumbo support staff as well as broadcast crew supposed to be accommodated.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

3rd ODI: India vs South Africa **(1:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network and JioHotstar**

Ashes 2nd Test: Australia vs England **(Day 3, 9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network and JioHotstar**

1st Test: New Zealand vs West Indies **(Day 5, 3:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy: Chhattisgarh vs Mumbai, Goa vs J&K, Karnataka vs Saurashtra **(all 11:00 am)**, Maharashtra vs Uttar Pradesh, Tripura vs Uttarakhand **(4:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network and JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Aston Villa vs Arsenal **(6:00 pm)**, Bournemouth vs Chelsea, Everton vs Nottm Forest, Manchester City vs Sunderland, Newcastle vs Burnley, Tottenham vs Brentford **(8:30 pm)**, Leeds vs Liverpool **(11:00 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network and JioHotstar.**

HOCKEY

Women's Jr World Cup: China vs South Africa **(5:30 pm)**, England vs Austria **(7:45 pm)**, Australia vs Scotland **(10:00 pm)**, Zimbabwe vs Belgium **(12:15 am, Sunday)**, Canada vs Spain **(2:30 am, Sunday)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network and JioHotstar.**

FORMULA 1

Abu Dhabi GP: Practice 3 **(4:00 pm)**, qualifying **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

CRICKET THIRD ODI

Pressure on youngsters to deliver

India hope to avoid another series defeat against SA

VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI

The spotlight, like most times, will be on Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma but the pressure would also be on India's younger crop when the home side looks to avoid another embarrassing series loss to South Africa in the must-win third and final ODI here on Saturday.

A Raipur-like fumbling by India will see South Africa bag the ODI series too, closely after their 2-0 triumph in Tests.

Consecutive series defeats is unthinkable for India in the current scenario, particularly when the dressing room is perceived to be pulling in different directions.

A victory in this rubber can quell the chatter around the team for a while, and for that, Kohli and Rohit have to do the heavy lifting once again.

Both have been the undisputed masters of the 50-over format, and no strangers to such tight situations. After all, their legacy is built around taking down difficulties -- an exhilarating ride in itself in the last decade and half.

Now, standing at the door that opens only to the sunset, Kohli and Rohit will want another glorious chapter to be added to the long book of achievements. It's not a mere ambition either.

Kohli has two hundreds and a fifty in his last three innings, while Rohit has a hundred and two fifties in his last four outings.

Those numbers tell about their touch, class and hunger even in late 30s, indicating that they can still save the day for the team.

But they would not complain about some meaningful support from the younger batters like it came forth in the last match through Ruturaj Gaikwad, who struck his maiden ODI hundred.

But Yashasvi Jaiswal is still to find his range in this series as an opener, and the gifted young man will be keen to convert his starts into a bigger score, for his and the team's sake.

There is an obvious flaw in his batting against left-arm quicks, be it Jayden Seales of the West Indies or Marco Jansen and Nandre Burger in this series.

He has been dismissed by left-armers 30 times (9 in Tests, 19 in T20Is and 2 in ODIs) in his career, predominantly while attempting a cut and its many versions, his staple diet outside the off-stump.

Jaiswal and the team management cannot remain oblivious to something so obvious, and the work might have already begun to rectify it.

But if the trend continues, the management might just be forced to look at other options, and they have a genuine opener in Gaikwad in their ranks.

The pitch at the ACA-VDCA stadium often tends to favour the batters, and India have a wonderful record here -- seven wins in 10 ODIs from 2005 even though the last encounter against Australia ended in a defeat.

In imperious form, India's Virat Kohli will be looking to sign off the ODI series against South Africa with a third successive century in the final game in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. PTI

But that aside, India will think deeply whether to rest Washington Sundar and bring in Tilak Varma to beef up the middle-order batting line-up, which struggled to force the pace in the business end of the last two matches.

Rishabh Pant too can be a candidate but Tilak is a utility spinner and also adds value as a gun fielder.

KL Rahul's breezy fifties carried India to a par score, but dew helped South Africa coming close to the target in Ranchi and going over the line in Raipur.

But in this coastal town, the humidity factor comes into play in the night despite a recent dip in temperature thanks to cyclonic weather.

'Desperate to win ODI series after Test loss'

VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI

Assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate on Friday said a below-par performance in the preceding Test series has put a certain amount of "desperation" in the Indian team to win the ongoing ODI series against South Africa.

India lost the two-match Test rubber 0-2 to the Proteas recently and the one-day series is now levelled at 1-1.

"It's a very different personnel of players but the guys are very aware of the responsibility of what they're representing," ten Doeschate said here on the eve of the series-deciding third ODI. KL Rahul's side won the first match at Ranchi by 17 runs but SA pulled one back at Raipur with a four-wicket victory. "We always want to win but, yeah certainly, when a few losses do start stacking up and performances have been below what we expect from ourselves, I think it's a slight desperation from the series point of view," he added.

Ryan ten Doeschate

But ten Doeschate was quick to add that the team members have been quite used to tackling such pressure situations. "I don't think pressure ever goes away for this team. You know, bilateral series, when the series is on the line, there is an element of pressure there in itself. We try to focus on the process. We try and assess what's going to be a good score and then the batting unit has to go about getting it," he said.

The former Dutch all-rounder admitted the dew played a massive role the last two matches, and was aware that it could be a factor here too on Saturday. "The dew factor is so big here. It's obviously not our fault but it is our responsibility to find a way to get around that."

Shai Hope

Sparkling Shai century gives West Indies hope

CHRISTCHURCH, AFP: A sparkling century by Shai Hope ably supported by Justin Greaves had the West Indies 212 for 4 at stumps on Friday and clinging to the remote chance they can save the first Test against New Zealand in Christchurch.

Hope was 116 not out and Greaves 55 with the pair putting on 140 for the fifth wicket after the West Indies were in dire straits at 72 for 4.

New Zealand need six more wickets with the new ball six overs away while the West Indies, set a mammoth 531-run target, need a further 319 runs.

The tourists' cause was helped by injuries to New Zealand's pace ranks which have forced captain Tom Latham to be creative with how he managed his bowlers.

A side strain sidelined seamer Nathan Smith for the remainder of the Test and lead bowler Matt Henry was restricted to 11 overs because of a hamstring issue.

That brought off-spinner Michael Bracewell and part-timer Rachin Ravindra into the attack earlier and longer than expected.

New Zealand bowling coach Jacob Oram said the result could depend on how they use their two fit pace bowlers -- Jacob Duffy and Zak Foulkes -- with the new ball.

Brief scores: New Zealand: 231 all out & (O/n: 417/4): 466/8 decl in 95 overs (Tom Latham 145, Devon Conway 37, Rachin Ravindra 176; Kemar Roach 5-78, Ojay Shields 2-74) vs West Indies: 167 all out & 212/4 in 74 overs (Shai Hope 116 n.o., Justin Greaves 55 n.o.)

Relentless Australia nose ahead

BRISBANE, AFP

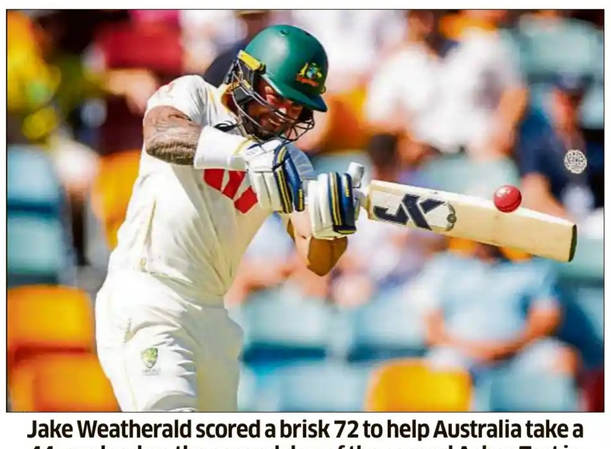
Australia took a 44-run lead over England in the day-night second Ashes Test in Brisbane on Friday, with aggressive opener Jake Weatherald and Steve Smith leading the charge.

By stumps, the hosts had not only reeled in England's first-innings 334 but raced clear, ending a draining day two on 378 for 6 in front of a big crowd at a humid Gabba.

A decent lead is shaping as crucial, with the pitch likely to deteriorate in the coming days.

Alex Carey, who was dropped first ball and again on 25, was 46 not out with Michael Neser on 15, but England's pace cartel made in roads under lights in the evening session.

Australia were cruising at 291 for 3 before the expensive Brydon Carse removed Cameron Green (45) and Smith (61) in four deliveries to rekindle hope as England's short-ball tactics paid off. The bowlers, though, lacked consistency and were guilty of too many loose deliveries with Australia plundering 51 boundaries, while four easy catches were put down.



Jake Weatherald scored a brisk 72 to help Australia take a 44-run lead on the second day of the second Ashes Test in Brisbane. REUTERS

Weatherald, in only his second Test, slammed 12 fours and a six in a punchy knock before being trapped lbw by Jofra Archer with an angled yorker.

Marnus Labuschagne -- Australia's form batsman in recent months with a slew of centuries in domestic cricket -- was similarly assured, cracking 65 as the shadows moved over the ground.

But as he looked destined for another ton, England captain Ben Stokes got the crucial breakthrough with a nick to wicketkeeper Jamie Smith. Steve Smith, wearing black adhesive anti-glare strips under his eyes to help with the Gabba lights, as is common in American sports, was the big wicket.

Brief scores: England: (O/n: 325/9): 334 all out in 76.2 overs (Zak Crawley 76, Joe Root 138 n.o, Harry Brook 31, Jofra Archer 36; Mitchell Starc 6-71) vs Australia: 378/6 in 73 overs (Travis Head 33, Jake Weatherald 72, Marnus Labuschagne 65, Steven Smith 61, Cameron Green 45, Alex Carey 45 n.o.; Brydon Carse 3-113, 2-93).

Dropped Lyon feeling 'filthy'

Frustrated Australian spinner Nathan Lyon said he was "absolutely filthy" at being axed for the second Ashes Test against England, reports AFP from Brisbane.

The 140-Test veteran was omitted in favour of an all-pace attack for the day-night clash in Brisbane and only learned his fate two hours before the toss on Thursday. It is the first time since 2012 that he has missed a home Test, replaced by right-arm pacer Michael Neser.

"Absolutely filthy," the 38-year-old told Australia's Channel Seven when asked about his demotion as England reached 325/9 at stumps on day one.

"I can't do anything about it, so I hope I can play my role in making sure I get the guys ready and do whatever I can to make sure that we get the right result here."

Discus star Seema suspended for 16 months

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Veteran discus-thrower Seema Antil Punia **(in pic)** has been handed a 16-month suspension by the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) of NADA, as per the updated list released on Friday.

While the anti-doping body didn't reveal the name, it is learnt that the four-time CWG medallist tested positive for a gynaecological drug during a state-level meet in Haryana in early 2024. The drug is normally used for fertility or assisted reproduction treatments, and falls under what WADA calls "specified substances."

These substances are basically drugs that can easily show up in day-to-day medical use and aren't typically taken to boost performance. Because they are so common, the rules allow a lighter punishment if an athlete proves they weren't seriously at fault. A 16-month ban is pretty much what the panel gives when they believe part of the athlete's explanation but not enough to clear them fully.

When *DH* reached out to the Sonipat-born athlete, Seema refused to comment on the matter. This is actually the third doping-related episode linked to the 42-year-old, after her 2000 World Junior medal was taken away and another controversy that forced her withdrawal from the 2006 Doha Asian Games.

NADA on Friday also announced more suspensions across athletics. Distance runner Pooja Yadav got a four-year ban for a blood-boosting agent, while shot-putter Manjeet Kumar Mahto was hit with a six-year suspension for a mix of anabolic agents and a stimulant. Middle-distance runner Nikesh Dhanraj Rathod received four years for another oxygen-enhancing substance.

Two marathon runners Kuldeep Singh (for evasion) and steeplechaser Chavi Yadav (for anabolic steroid) were also banned for four years each.

IOA's Yadav is CDM for Asian Games

NEW DELHI, PTI: Indian Olympic Association treasurer Sahdev Yadav, who is also the head of the national weightlifting body, has been named Chef de Mission for next year's Asian Games, scheduled in Aichi-Nagoya in Japan from September 23 to October 8.

India's greatest men's table tennis player Achanta Sharath Kamal will be the deputy Chef de Mission and a part of the 15- member committee, constituted by the Sports Ministry to oversee the preparations for the quadrennial extravaganza.

The sports secretary will be chairman of the panel with IOA president PT Usha being the co-chair.

Among the other noted sportsperson are London Olympic medallist and Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) member Gagan Narang, who was also India's CDM at the Paris Olympics last year.

Former India hockey player Viren Rasquinha has got his entry as a member of MOC and being a sportsperson of outstanding merit.

In the form of his life, Shreyas dreams of India ticket

Spin all-rounder hopes to earn IPL recall after a prolific season

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Three seasons ago, Shreyas Gopal's career was at a crossroads. After being a pivotal figure in the Karnataka setup for almost a decade, he was suddenly not a preferred choice across all three formats that forced to make a move to Kerala. To add to the woes, he had also lost his IPL contract.

And that left the Bengaluru boy with two options to choose from – enjoy playing while also trying to prove his worth or ponder over the opportunities that he had not capitalised on.

While many would have faded away, the battle-hardened leg-spinner knew what he wanted and has been a different player since.

During his time for Kerala, Shreyas picked up 16 wickets in six Ranji Trophy games and scored a century and a fifty. In the white-ball format, he picked up 12 wickets each in the Vijay Hazare Trophy and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

Those performances went a long way in regaining the State's faith in him. He, then, repaid the trust with brilliant white-ball outings for Karnataka the following season.

Now, at 32, in the middle of a superb run, the leg-spinner still nourishes the dream of playing for India and feels that he is "ready and prepared" to make the leap from the domestic stage to the international scene.

"I am definitely ready and prepared for that India call-up," Shreyas tells *DH*. "When it comes, I want to go out there and perform to the best of my ability. I am very excited if that call comes," he adds.

Shreyas Gopal has been in outstanding form for Karnataka this domestic season. DH FILE PHOTO

Shreyas has been in impeccable form this season in the Ranji Trophy and has picked up 27 wickets at an average of 17.51 with two five-fors, including an 8/110.

"The performance on a personal note has been good so far. Very happy with how it has gone with both bat and ball. But I'm more happy that we are on the top of the points table. I am eager to continue and take it a notch higher."

So what has he done differently from the past to get back to his best?

Keeping things simple, he says. "Bowling longer spells in an innings (35 overs and above) with the same intensity can be daunting. But that is something I've been training in terms of volume during pre-season. When you go searching for wickets, you tend to bowl a lot of bad balls. That is something I have worked on, trying to keep things simple and very happy to pick up big five-wicket hauls."

While he was always known for his technically sound abilities with the bat, the runs have also followed: 290 runs at an average of 57 with four fifties. However, Shreyas believes that a few of those fifties should have been converted into tons.

"I'm also disappointed that I could not make any of those 50s into 100s. It could have been a 100 and ten-wicket haul in the same game if I had converted in one of the games. That would have been something special for me."

IPL has been a journey of patience and persistence for Shreyas. There have been good times, but they have been stretched by some seasons on the bench and some without a seat.

However, with Ravindra Jadeja moving out of the Chennai Super Kings and R Ashwin retired, a spinning all-rounder would be the buzzword around the CSK camp.

While Shreyas looks to continue pressing his case for higher honours, he does not want to think too far ahead and wants to control the controllables.

"I have not had any conversations with them yet, but if that opportunity presents itself, I am ready. The one thing I can control is turning up and working as hard as possible. But I am very excited to be a part of that squad."

Karnataka girls seal last-eight berth

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deeksha J Honushree returned a four-for while skipper Niki Prasad made a vital contribution with the bat as Karnataka beat Punjab to seal their quarterfinal berth in the BCCI Under-23 Women's T20 Trophy at the Gujarat College Cricket Ground A in Ahmedabad on Friday.

Batting first, Punjab, on the back of Himanshi Saini's fighting 51, managed to post 95 for 9 in 20 overs as Deeksha starred with the ball for Karnataka, picking up 4/15.

Brief scores: Punjab: 95/9 in 20 overs (Himanshi Saini 51; Namita D' Souza 2-5, Deeksha J Honushree 4-15) lt to Karnataka: 96/5 in 19.5 overs (Niki Prasad 44 n.o.).

India women bounce back in style

SANTIAGO (CHILE), PTI: Purnima Yadav hit a brace to lead India to a dominant 4-0 victory over Ireland in their final Pool C match at the FIH Junior Women's World Cup here on Friday.

Purnima (42nd, 58th), Kanika Siwach (12th) and Sakshi Rana (57th) scored the goals for India at the Centro Deportivo de Hockey Cesped, Estadio Nacional in Santiago.

India made a bright start in the first quarter and showed great attacking intent, winning an early penalty corner in the first 12 seconds of the match, however, their attempt didn't reach the goal post. India continued to pile on the pressure winning their second penalty corner in the 10th minute but the chance was squandered again. However, two minutes later, Sakshi played the perfect pass to Kanika inside the circle who skillfully went around the charging Irish goalkeeper and slotted the ball into an open net to break the deadlock.

FC Deccan edge past SGFC

BENGALURU, DHNS: Aimso Chithung scored a brace as FC Deccan edged past Sree Gajanana FC 2-1 in the BDFA A Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Friday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Results: FC Deccan: 2 (Aimso Chithung 7th, 63rd) bt Sree Gajanana FC: 1 (Sujith Kumar 24th); DYES FC: 1 (Chandhan S) bt Blitz FC: 0; Technico FF: 1 (Rinn Jairus Joel 53rd) bt Real Chikkamagaluru FC: 0.

HOCKEY JUNIOR WORLD CUP

Prince digs deep to keep India alive

Keeper dazzles in shootout as hosts edge Belgium in quarters

Indian players embrace goalkeeper Princedeep Singh (third from right) after his heroics in the shootout against Belgium powered them into the semifinals on Friday. PTI

HITA PRAKASH
CHENNAI, DHNS

Belgium were coming in with two easy wins and a tough loss against higher-ranked Spain. The world No. 7 side, learning some hard lessons from the defeat, perhaps helped them step on to the field on Friday with a sharper game.

India, on the other hand, had three easy victories in the pool stage. Without their best tested or underutilised, the anxiety of facing their biggest challenge yet was evident.

What was a timid and nervous start for the PR Sreejesh-coached side against a solid and confident Belgium slowly turned into a physical slugfest and an edge-of-the-seat thriller post half-time.

Playing catch-up for most parts of the quarterfinal, India mustered enough courage to eke out a 4-3 win against Belgium via shootout after the scores read 2-2 at full-time in the Junior Hockey World Cup at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium. Goalkeeper Princedeep Singh emerged as the hero on a frantic night, producing two superb saves in the shootout.

Putting their taller frame and faster legs to good use, the Belgian players gave little room for the Indians to play fluidly in the first quarter. The Europeans had the first say in pretty much every department.

Charging in from the right flank, a squabble inside the right half of the circle saw the ball being passed to Gaspard Cornez-Massant on the left. With nothing blocking him, the 20-year-old reverse-slapped the ball into the net to give his team the first break.

The second quarter was a slow burner. India looked shaky and erred on multiple occasions but came away unscathed. At halftime the scoreboard read 1-0 in favour of the Belgians.

The flip in the switch happened towards the latter half of the third quarter. The full house, reduced to silence in the opening half, came alive in the 45th minute. Another PC, this time defender Anmol Ekka's flick flying an inch outside the goal post. But somehow this miss appeared to have turned the tables for India.

The final minute of the third was when the stadium erupted. Captain Rohit stepped up to take the shot in the set piece. The 21-year-old's power and precision resulted in India scoring the equaliser in the 45th minute. Finally, a much-needed PC conversion.

With the momentum on India's side, defender Shardanand Tiwari found the back of the net in the 48th in the final quarter. With a semifinal spot within touching distance the Rohit-led team had found their stride. But, what's Indian hockey without some last-minute drama?

Again, a defensive lapse playing the anti-hero for the home team, Belgium sneaked in their second goal through Nathan Rogge's stick in the 59th minute to equalise. A heart-in-the-mouth shootout followed, goalkeeper Princedeep saving the last two Belgian efforts and Ankit Pal's tomahawk finding the back of the net saw India winning 4-3 in a cracker.

Germany, Spain survive

With three seconds left on the clock, Bruno Avila converted a penalty corner to help world No. 4 Spain survive a resilient New Zealand in their 4-3 win in the first quarterfinal clash on Friday.

In other thrilling encounter, defending champions Germany's experience came to the fore when it mattered most as the world No. 1 edged past last edition's runners-up France via shootouts following a 2-2 scoreline at the end of halftime.

The third last-eight saw Tomas Ruiz's (52nd) lone goal take Argentina past Netherlands.

Results (Quarterfinals): India: 4 (Rohit Yadav 45th, Shardanand Tiwari 48th) bt Belgium: 3 (Gaspard Cornez-Massant 13th, Nathan Rogge 59th) via shootout, FT: 2-2; Spain: 4 (Nicolas Mustaros 2nd, Josep Martin 10th, Albert Serrahima 12th, Bruno Avila 60th) bt New Zealand: 3 (Sam Lints 22nd, 60th, Ryan Parr 34th); Germany: 3 (Ale von Schwerin 30th, Paul Glander 36th) bt France: 1 (Malo Martinache 30th, Hugo Dolou 55th) via shootout, FT: 2-2; Argentina: 1 (Tomas Ruiz 52nd) bt Netherlands: 0.

Semifinal line-ups: India vs Germany; Spain vs Argentina (Dec 7, Sunday).

B'luru to host Davis Cup in Feb

India take on the Dutch in World Group stage tie

BENGALURU, DHNS

Sumit Nagal

Having just successfully hosted the Billie Jean King Cup Playoffs and set to welcome some of the globe's elite tennis players later this month for the World Tennis League (WTL), the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium here has been awarded the Davis Cup World Group stage clash between India and the Netherlands on February 7 and 8.

Bengaluru, which enjoys a rich tennis legacy, will be hosting the Davis Cup -- dubbed the World Cup of tennis -- for the sixth time after the ties in 1970, 1985, 2013, 2014 and 2017.

"It is an honour for Bengaluru to be chosen again as the venue for the Davis Cup tie against the Netherlands. The Davis Cup is all about nationalism and it is a very special event for all of us," said Priyank M Kharge, Minister for IT BT, RDPR, Government of Karnataka as well as senior vice-president of the KSLTA and the chairman of the organising committee.

India, placed No. 33 in the Davis Cup ranking, have reached the finals three times (1966, 1974 and 1987).

They secured a place in the 2026 qualifiers with a convincing 3–1 victory over Switzerland in Sept 2025, marking it the first win over a European team since 1993.

Led by Sumit Nagal and Dhakshineswar Suresh, the performance also marked India's strongest result since the competition format changed in 2019.

Abheet, Kaushik, Suresh do star turn for Jayanagar Colts

BENGALURU, DHNS: Abheet Kuthpady scored a century (106), Kaushik Udupa (62 & 4/16) produced an all-round show and Suresh Karani bagged 6/34 as Jayanagar Colts trounced Friends Cricket Team by 126 runs in the KSCA Group I, IV Division league cum knockout tournament for the Metro Shield here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: Jayanagar Colts: 236/7 in 50 overs (Abheet Kuthpady 106, Kaushik Udupa 62, Sanju Dapalapur 26; Yuvraj R 3-52, Yaseer Nihal 2-46) bt Friends Cricket Team: 110 all out in 30 overs (Yuvraj R 33; Suresh Karani 6-34, Kaushik Udupa 4-16).
Bangalore Indian Cricket Club: 256/8 in 50 overs (Arvind 38, Ameet Yadav 101, Sanjay Raja 48; Vivek Seervi 3-65, Abdul Shymrid Changez 3-29) bt Friends XI Cricket Club, Doddaballapura: 239/7 in 50 overs (Nagarjun TM 46, K Akhil 103 n.o., Nirmal S 60; Arvind 2-45, Nagendra K 3-52, Preetham HG 2-52).
Gandhinagar Cricketers: 259/8 in 50 overs (Asif Basha S 42, Himanshu Rajput 55, Nishanth R 59, Trupathi 47) lt to Blue Diamond Cricketers: 263/5 in 46 overs (Varun M 32, George Fernandis 53, Vinay N Sagar 85, Shoheb Pasha 25, Madan Mohan Krishna 46 n.o.; Abhishek Rana Ramakant Singh 2-38, Vinay BA 2-37).
Kapali Cricket Club: 244 all out in 49.3 overs (Madankumar Chitragara 74; M Jayan Samyog 2-29, Praveen Singh R 3-40) bt Chamarajpet Cricket Club: 131 all out in 26 overs (Arjun Shashidhar 46 n.o.; Mohammed Kashif Khan 2-20, Purushothama TN 4-18).
Malleswaram United Cricket Club: 212/8 in 50 overs (Prathap 52, Manish Benjamin John 33, Nihal Gowda K 40, Amruthraj T 38 n.o.; Praveen Kumar ML 2-61, Aditya Singh 2-31, Desmond Antony 2-39) lt to Spartons Sports Club: 213/4 in 30.4 overs (Lakshmi Sagar 25, Desmond Antony 56, Rohith Gowda 115 n.o.; Nishiketh DC Naik 3-72).
Ranji Cricket Club: 223/7 in 50 overs (Kutam Charan Ram 104, Anand Kumar R 31, Sujay Korawar 33; R Chandrasekaran 2-47, Vinod Kumar M 3-32) lt to Lions Cricket Club: 224/5 in 41.5 overs (Vinod Kumar M 62, Sujeet Kumar R 29, Neelrattan B 71 n.o.; Sujay Korawar 2-23).
Maharana Cricket Club: 143 all out in 45.4 overs (Sriee Krish RA 29; Lokesh Singhr 3-22, Ajay H S 2-16) lt to National United Cricket Club: 147/3 in 16.4 overs (Jefin KP 64 n.o., Deepak Ugrappa 28, Ajay HS 32).
Eleven Brother's Cricket Club, Magadi: 73 all out in 25.5 overs (MK Hemesh 2-20, Pavan Gokhale 4-16, Shameek Kolambkar 3-12) lt to Sapphire Cricket Club: 77/1 in 13.1 overs (Ravikumar M 48 n.o.).
Standard Cricket Club: 192 all out in 39.2 overs (Aden Mark D Souza 35, Dinesha P 37, Vijaykumar M 52; Lohith R 3-11, Raunak Singh 3-34, Rahil Firoz Chagani 2-39) lt to Vikram Cricket Club: 196/8 in 47.5 overs (Deepak Reddy C 70, Pavan Kumar K 32 n.o.; R Subash 2-46, Abhay G 3-47).
Citizen Cultural Cricket Association: 159 all out in 36.4 overs (D Raghavendra 33, Ravi 37; Jithendra VN 3-16, Chethan KV 2-17, Gorli Durga Prasad 3-40) lt to Sparklers Cricket Club: 160/8 in 31.3 overs (Deepak Gowda 54, Shivam Rathod 30; Saleem AS 2-53, Bharath Pathour 2-14, Rushiketh HD 2-32).
Wadiyar Cricket Club: 132 all out in 40.1 overs (Shashank Ganesh 30; Krishna 3-24, Susheel R Udupi 2-24, Bhargav KP 2-31, Raaj R 2-18) lt to Hanumanthanagar Cricket Club: 133/4 in 27 overs (Susheel R Udupi 32, Vinod T 26 n.o., Tejas J 48 n.o.).
Young Challenging Cricketers: 107 all out in 35 overs (Naveen KB 51; Shashidhar HS 4-11, Udaya Shankar D 2-22, Sanath S Nair 3-8) lt to Friends Union Cricketers, KGF: 111/4 in 23 overs (Ankush Boppanna 47; Jayesh Babu 2-27, Hariharan Ganesh Ramani 2-24).

SA hockey struggling to hold on to players

HITA PRAKASH
CHENNAI, DHNS

Guy Elliott's heart beats for hockey. Religiously invested in grassroot development for years, his love for the sport is infectious when he indulges in a conversation about his passion.

The head coach of South Africa's under-21 team, which is here to compete at the FIH Men's Junior World Cup, is also wise enough to accept that love does not always guarantee financial security.

The smile that appears while talking of 'his' boys' improvement on the field, begins to fade when you ask him about some of those boys preferring cricket or rugby (the more popular sports in South Africa) or even studies over hockey.

For example Jaydon Brooker. The 20-year-old dragflicker scored a brace in the 3-1 win against Malaysia in a 9/16 placings game on Thursday after the team missed out on making it to the knockouts.

Brooker is also a professional cricketer and has been the most sought after South African player here as this is, in all probability, his final international hockey tournament before the youngster switches to cricket completely from next year.

"Did he tell you that (laughs)?," Elliott double checks.

"At the end of the day, the guys also have to make the smart decision," he says. "You know, even Jonty Rhodes was a top hockey player.

Guy Elliott

Tristan Stubbs too. Even Donovan Ferreira. The list goes on and on. It's just the reality of cricket as a profession. Sometimes those opportunities just outweigh the hockey opportunities in South Africa.

"Litha Kraai (another U-21 player in the SA hockey squad) is going to have to make that decision as well. And yeah, if Jadon chooses hockey or cricket, that's fine. I just want everyone in this team to do well in life," offers Elliott, who is also the assistant coach for the senior men's national team.

Though hockey, according to Elliott, is widespread in the Rainbow Nation, the biggest drawback preventing the sport from flourishing and making it a viable career option is the little to no money in the system.

"I think in South Africa funding hockey is always a little bit of an issue. We don't have any money. Which means we don't have equipment. We have to borrow. We can't see each other as much as we want because the guys have to pay spend from their pockets to get to camps.

"I was very thankful because for the first time in my four years as coach, we had a million rand given to us from our association. We could now play more international competitions. We could get together a little bit more often. And I think that would improve the programme that begins in schools." With better management of the hockey in his home country, Elliot -- a former teacher at the St Alban's College in Pretoria -- is hopeful that migration to other sports would steadily dwindle. Hopefully, his labour of love pays off one day.

Arrived for main event

KOLKATA SELECTIONS

Adhirajsingh Jodha-trained Arrived, to be ridden by MS Deora, is fancied to win the Calcutta 2000 Guineas, the second classic of the Calcutta races to be run over a mile at the races on Saturday. The first race starts at 12:30 pm.

1. Stringfellows Handicap - 1600M: Hermes 1, Dubai Prince 2, Carnation 3.
2. Aristotle Handicap - 2400M: Champagnesupernova 1, Star Studded 2, Goodwill 3.
3. Xisca Handicap (Div I) - 1200M: Knotty Affair 1, Cashable 2, Jamaica 3.
4. Xisca Handicap (Div II) - 1200M: Mrs Brando 1, Cyrenaica 2, Superimpose 3.
5. Moon Emperor Cup - 1200M: Sky Force 1, Pluto 2, Knotty Blush 3.
6. Calcutta 2000 Guineas (2025) - 1600M: Arrived 1, Mahler 2, Gold Empire 3.
7. Aboline Handicap (Div I) - 1400M: Hermod 1, Amaze And Inspire 2, Schoenberg 3.
8. Aboline Handicap (Div II) - 1400M: Laguna Seca 1, Black Diamond 2, Keitaro 3.
Day's best: Hermod. **Jackpot:** 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. **I treble:** 1, 2 & 3. **II treble:** 3, 4 & 5. **III treble:** 6, 7 & 8.

Shamanth, Dhruvesh shine in Kensri's big victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Shamanth KC Raju's ton and a fine all-round show by Dhruvesh helped Kensri School post a massive 350-run win over Presidency School, Nandini Layout in a KSCA U-16 Schools' II Division tournament for the KM Ramprasad Shield here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Shamanth's 105, along with Shreyas RG's unbeaten 76 and Bhoffinn Reddy's 53, powered Kensri to 401/8 in 50 overs. Presidency didn't measure up to the task as they crashed to 156 all out in 36 overs with Dhruvesh, who had earlier cracked 33, claiming 3/34 and Mitansh Singh Rao's scalping 4/24.

Brief scores: Kensri School: 401/8 in 50 overs (Shamanth KC Raju 105, Pranad Satyanarain 35, Bhofinn Sanjeev A Reddy 53, Dhruvesh 33, Shreyas RG 76 n.o., Ayush Arun 35; Saharsh R Shetty 3-73, Nishal Aradhya CA 3-52) bt Presidency School, Nandini Layout: 156 all out in 36 overs (Nishal Aradhya CA 29; Dhruvesh 4-34, Mitansh Singh Rao 4-24).
National Public School, B-10: 168 all out in 39.5 overs (Nitin Raghunandhan 57; Nakul R Sagar 2-30, G Krishav 5-42, Dhruv Acharya H 3-25) lt to School Vivekananda: 170/6 in 30 overs (Nakul R Sagar 60, Dhruv Acharya H 37; Tanav M 4-17).
Vidyaniketan School: 274 all out in 50 overs (Vyom Naidu 38, K Devansh Shah 67, Nihal S Kukreja 25, Eeshan Pavan Kumar Pairee 26, Parth Agarwal 35; S Sai Charan 3-38) bt Ryan International School, Kundanahalli: 216 all out in 46.2 overs (Aadrit Sengupta 30, Gnanesh Subramani 28, Sameer P Kulkarni 61, SV Aarya 54; Abhay Samartha 3-30).
Carmel School, Padmanabhanagar: 234 all out in 43.5 overs (Tushar Saini 36, Charan Suresh 27, Pranav Avrur P 37, Samprit Suresh 26, Dhanush Varanashi 46, Vismay N Murthy 26; Adnan Irfan 2-74, Kevin 3-36, Khusshal N 4-45) bt St John's High School: 61 all out in 22.3 overs (Rian Urs MN 6-20, Pranav Avrur P 2-26).
Carmel High School: 164 all out in 44.5 overs (Jeevan Gowda MH 52; Saatvik Sanikop 2-18, Hiranmayi P 4-37, M Sohan 3-29) vs St Pauls English School: 58/2 in 8.3 overs. No further play was possible due to rain.
Jain International Residential School: 223 all out in 42.2 overs (Chinmai Sai Chowdary 25, Agampreet Singh Gandhi 70, Kasundra Naitik Nishith 49; Monish P 3-45, Mahesh 2-35, Bhuvan Tejas N 3-49) lt to Triveni Memorial Educational Trust: 224/4 in 37.5 overs (Bhuvan Gowda 57, Karthik T Bokke 64, Monish P 53 n.o.; B Yuvan 3-33).
Chinmaya Vidyalaya: 52 all out in 23 overs (S Lavith Nischal 5-13, G Krishav 3-9, Dhruv Acharya H 2-18) lt to School Vivekananda: 55/1 in 6.3 overs (Dhruv Acharya H 27 n.o.).
Mallya Aditi International School: 141 all out in 35.2 overs (Ahan Gupta 28, Siddhanth Patil 53 n.o.; Navaneeth Kothapalli 3-31, Tanish Bennuri 3-19) lt to Vydehi School of Excellence: 145/4 in 24 overs (V Vedhanth 52 n.o., Sai Teja Atti 27; Ishan N Kausthubh 3-52).
Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidyamandir: 234 all out in 46.1 overs (Vineet Patil 109; Vishnu Belawadi 2-41, Ruthik N 4-23) bt Vidyaniketan Public School, Ullal: 179/7 in 50 overs (Sidharth Nayaka NS 35, V Sumukha 26 n.o.; Kodatala Sai Shravan Reddy 2-30, Harshith Bommineni 2-21, Tejasvi Sharma 2-9).

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SWIFT

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DECCAN HERALD
Saturday, December 6, 2025

Wknd.

Storm in a coffee cup
COFFEE BREAK P04

ADVERTORIAL & PROMOTIONAL LIFESTYLE FEATURE

BOSCH LIFTS NICE DH CUP 2025
PAGE 02

JUST NAIL IT
PAGE 04

Aroma therapy for body and mind

Winter slows you down. The air turns cooler, days feel shorter and your body starts craving for warmth, comfort and grounding. This is exactly where scented wellness care steps in - it is a ritual that blends aromatherapy with daily self-care, helping you stay calm, centred and energised through the season.

Scented wellness is more than lighting a candle or wearing a perfume. It's about consciously using fragrance notes that support your mood, ease tension and create a cocoon of warmth around you. In winter, your senses respond better to deeper, soothing aromas like vanilla, sandalwood, cinnamon, lavender and soft musks. These notes feel like emotional blankets - comforting without overwhelming.

Start with a morning scent ritual. A citrus shower gel instantly uplifts you on groggy winter mornings, while a eucalyptus steam clears the mind. Follow it with a warm, woody perfume or body mist that lingers softly through the day.

Evenings are ideal for calming blends. Lavender pillow sprays, chamomile diffusers and sandalwood candles help transition your mind out of work mode. They slow the heart rate, ease anxiety and prepare the body for deeper sleep — something winter often disturbs.

Incorporate scent into skincare too. A rose or vanilla body cream after a warm shower not only hydrates dry skin but also creates a spa-like moment at home. For emotional grounding, keep a tiny roll-on essential oil — like patchouli - in your bag for quick winter resets.

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This edition had 13 teams putting up a spirited performance. **Prerna Malhotra** reports

BOSCH emerge on top at NICE DH Cup 2025

The curtains came down on NICE DH Cup 2025 on Sunday November 30 with an electric finale that wrapped up a month-long celebration of corporate football, camaraderie and high-performance sporting spirit. Played at Matchday Arena, New BEL Road, this year's tournament brought together 13 corporate teams, each turning up with sharpened skills, improved fitness and a renewed hunger to compete.

The season kicked off on November 8 with a high-energy launch party at Fox in the Field, Nexus Shantiniketan, Whitefield, setting the tone for what would become one of the most competitive editions yet. Over consecutive weekends in November, the 13 teams battled it out in tightly-contested matches, producing dramatic shoots, unlikely comebacks and standout performances.

The final saw BOSCH and Elfonze Technologies square off in a gripping championship clash. BOSCH won the match with a decisive 5–2 victory, powered by an extraordinary performance from Arun Kumar K (jersey 17), who struck a superb hat-trick, and Arun K (jersey 5), who added two more goals. For Elfonze Technologies, Sandeep Krishna (jersey 4) kept the contest alive with two well-taken goals, showcasing the team's grit and competitive spirit.

With this victory, BOSCH lifted the rolling trophy for the second time. BOSCH also walked away with both the individual awards - Arun Kumar K (jersey 17) bagged the highest goal scorer prize for his 38 goals in the tournament and Suriya Kumaran R C took the best goalkeeper award. Elfonze Technologies finished as well-deserved runner-up, earning the shield.

The champions walked away with a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, while the runner-up team secured Rs 80,000. The individual prize winners received Rs 10,000 each.

Adding to the excitement, the winners and runner-up teams received gifts and vouchers from The Wellness Co, DoubleTree Suites by Hilton, The Skin Store, Sally by 1522 and Prithika Cashew Warriors.

Beyond trophies and scorelines, NICE DH Cup 2025 stood out for promoting a fitness culture and team bonding within Bengaluru's corporate community. From improved warm-up routines to greater emphasis on hydration and recovery, the growing professionalism among teams was evident on and off the field.

DH Cup continues to cement its place as one of the city's most anticipated corporate sporting events. It's a space where healthy competition thrives and football brings everyone together.

Team BOSCH

(Left to right) Arun Kumar K, Syed Shadab, Arun Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Ajay Kumar, Arun Roy Patrick (captain), Arjun Sanjeev, Charles A, Suriya Kumaran R C (goalkeeper) and Ramesh G.

Team Elfonze Technologies

(Left to right) Jayanth K S, Sahil Lamani, Noel S (captain), Dayanand, P Sandeep Krishna, Ajay M (goalkeeper), Sunil Kumar K S and Wency A.

Individual prize winners

Suriya Kumaran R C, team BOSCH, receives the best goalkeeper award from Girish R Doddamani, sports journalist, Prajavani (center) and Dr Gul Mohamed Akbar, marathoner and race director.

Arun Kumar, team BOSCH, receives the highest goal scorer award for his 38 goals in the tournament from Girish R Doddamani and Dr Gul Mohamed Akbar, with Dr Pooja Mohan of The Wellness Co and Sushma Sahitya from The Sports School (right). Dr M Gautham Machaiah, journalist (left) looks on.

Sally by 1522: English charm, global flavours, fresh vibes

Bringing the iconic 1522 experience into a fresh new setting, Sally by 1522 has become Bengaluru's latest dining and entertainment hotspot. Located in the bustling Phoenix Mall of Asia, this all-new concept from the 1522 brand is spearheaded by founder Chethan Hegde, along with co-founders Suhas Devraj, Kiran Raj and Ramakrishna Ganesh, who envisioned a space that's all about style, comfort and dining within a high-energy mall environment.

Step inside Sally, and you're instantly transported into a world where English pub charm meets contemporary global cafe culture. The warm lighting, rustic textures, and thoughtfully styled interiors create a cozy and sophisticated retreat – a place that feels equally perfect for after-work and weekend get-togethers or a quick bite between shopping sessions.

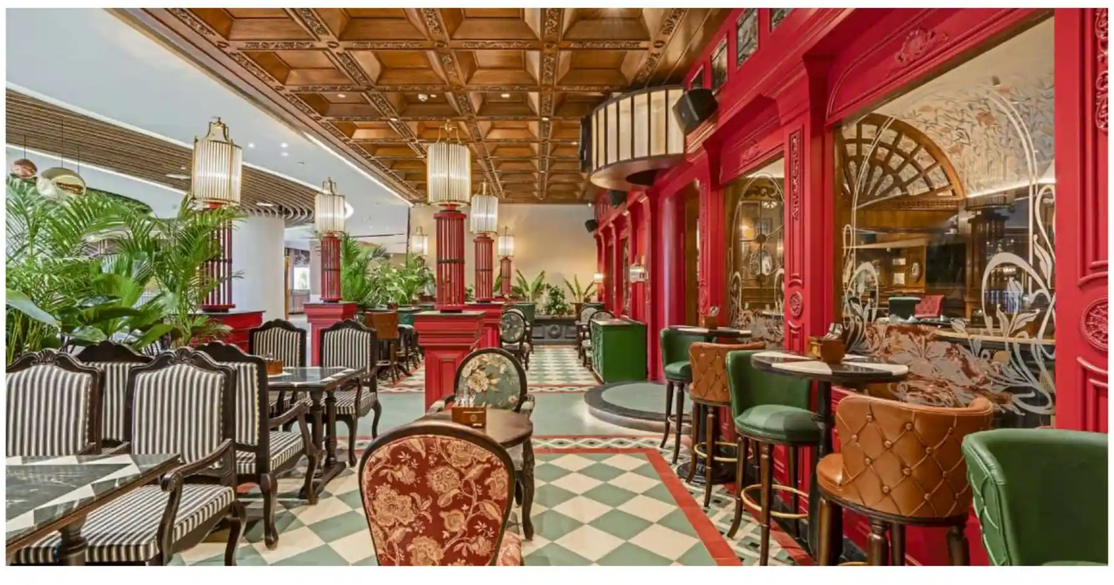
In keeping with the 1522 philosophy of serving 'a little something for everyone', Sally's multi-cuisine menu spans European favourites, north Indian classics, Indian coastal delicacies, pan-Asian staples, finger food and bar bites. While the offerings are extensive, the curation is meticulous.

Crowd favourites include the Cheese Beetroot Cutlet, a vegetarian starter, and the refreshing Poached Pear and Arugula Salad, showcasing Sally's modern flavour sensibilities. Seafood lovers can't stop raving about the Prawn Cocktail Cups, while meat enthusiasts swear by the Cheesy Mutton Cutlet, Mutton Chops and the spicy Kodugu Mutton Fry.

For diners seeking comfort food, Sally delivers with Mac & Cheese Balls, Burnt Garlic Fried Rice, Dum Chicken Biryani, Thai Curry, Pan-fried Noodles – Hot Garlic, Chipotle Mushroom, Stir-fried Long Beans, and much more — each crafted with the brand's signature emphasis on flavour, balance and quality.

Keeping pace with evolving food culture, Sally by 1522 also introduces seasonal specials, thoughtfully curated food and cocktail menus, and a variety of food festivals throughout the year. These events not only highlight new tastes but also ensure there's always something exciting for regulars to return to.

With its full bar, live music, eclectic menu, and warm service, Sally by 1522 is north Bengaluru's go-to destination for those who love great food, good vibes and an elevated, yet approachable, dining experience. Whether it's a casual evening or a celebratory outing, Sally promises a slice of the classic 1522 charm - with a refreshing new twist.



Teams in NICE DH Cup 2025...

The 2025 edition had 57 matches played over three weekends. As many as 413 goals were scored. Rainy days did little to dampen the spirits of the teams as they battled for the honours

BOSCH **Team Bosch**

Left to Right: Arun Kumar K, Syed Shadab, Arun Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Ajay Kumar, Arun Roy Patrick (C), Arjun Sanjeev, Charles A, Suriya Kumaran (GK), Ramesh G

ELFONZE **Team Elfonze Technologies**

Left to Right: Jayanth K S, Sahil Lamani, Noel S (C), Dayanand, P Sandeep Krishna, Ajay M (GK), Sunil Kumar K S, Wency A

TVS **Team TVS**

Left to Right: (Behind) Abhishek K P (GK), Sharon Dev, Akshay K, Hariharan V, Jarvis Sterling J (Front) Cecil Garcia Simon (C), Athul M, Muneef, Ajit Ramsajivan Yadav, Thirumal J

Fun@Work **Team Fun @ Work**

Left to Right: (Behind) Nikhil Bennur, Clivert Martis (C) Sushir Meti (GK), Atul Sahu (Front) Jack Cherian, Puneeth Anandareddy

Team UST

Left to Right: Varun Padmakumar, Mohammed Shinas, Aneesh Kumar, Abdul Samim, Praveen Murali, Rajkamal Nagarajan, Shyju Antony (C & GK), Elavarasan Pitchamani, Karthickvelan, Akhil Puthiyaveettil

BEML **Team BEML**

Left to Right: (Behind) Vijay Babu, Mohammad Dada Hayath Kalander, Vadivel S, Kumar P (Coach), Gopinath D, Ramanath S P, Manoj Kumar V (C) (Front) Naveen D, Khumukcham Tiken Singh, Kothanda Raman (GK), Mani Maran

Genex Bringing Solutions for Water **Team Genex Utility Management**

Left to Right: (Behind) Aswin C H (C), Shibin T, Athul Ajay, Jithin A, Sharon Eapen Thomas (GK) (Front) Abin Thankachan, Akhil P Anil, Athul Laiju

ITC INFOTECH Business-friendly Solutions **Team ITC Infotech India**

Left to Right: (Behind) Don Bosco, Ronesh Benny, Shivakumar G, Satwashil Mane (C), Mallikarjun K, Kunal Balakrishna (GK), (Front) Sandeep Sanjayan, Kesudas Lohidhakshan, Raakesh, Praveen Kumar

KARLE INFRA **Team Karle Infra**

Left to Right: (Behind) Dion Remo Dias, Praveen P N, Ajith Amartya Sharma (Front) Abhilash Pradhan, K S Chengappa , Gowtham R N, Somtirtha Singha, Choudhury (C & GK), Dhruvan S, Nitish Kumar

opentext Information reimagined **Team OpenText**

Left to Right: (Behind) Arunprakash N, Mukundan Manjunath Krishna, Nanda Gopal K, Gowtham D, Priyanshu Sarkar (Front) Fasil O K (GK), Stalin Donald Dennis Francis (C), Srivatsa J, Dheeraj

smarsh **Team Smarsh Inc**

Left to Right: (Behind) Manan Kumar, Deepraj Majalikar Akash Sudhakar (C), Gaurav Goenka (GK), Aman Bhandari, Arun N (Front) Rajesh Gopalan, Debanjan Roy, Vishwas Garg

BRIGADE **Team Brigade Group**

Left to Right: Raqim Rabbani, Vasu Yashwanth M C, Roshan Savio Prabhu (C), Ashok Kumar B

JOHNS **Team John Distilleries**

Left to Right: (Behind) Swaminathan S, Krishna M, Kiran Raj Nithin Gowda, Bhavish Bopanna, Sanjay Poonacha (C) (Front) Thanak Subbaiah, Devish D, Tushar S (GK), Saahem S, Charwak Mangaonkar

HOW THEY MADE IT TO THE TOP

BOSCH – Winner, NICE DH Cup 2025

IN LEAGUES)	
BEAT:	
John Distilleries	13 – 0
BEML	10 – 0
Karle Infra	8 – 2
ITC Infotech	9 – 1
OpenText	13 – 0
Elfonze Technologies	2 – 1
TVS Motor Co	5 – 3
Genex Utility	6 – 0

IN QUARTER FINAL	
BEAT:	
ITC Infotech	9 – 1
IN SEMI FINAL:	
Beat Fun@Work	6 – 4

IN FINAL
Beat Elfonze Technologies
5 – 2

Elfonze Technologies – Runner-up, NICE DH Cup 2025

IN LEAGUES)	
Fun@Work	7 – 2
Genex Utility	3 – 1
John Distilleries	7 – 1
Brigade Group	12 – 1
UST	4 – 1
Smarsh	10 – 1
Karle Infra	5 – 2
Lost:	
BOSCH	1 – 2

IN QUARTER FINAL	
BEAT:	
Genex Utility	6 – 0
IN SEMI FINAL:	
TVS Motor Co	5 – 2

IN FINAL
Lost to BOSCH 2 – 5

Compiled by **SHEETAL TIWARI**

Skipper Talk

'The competition, sportsmanship and energy on the field were inspiring...'

Our debut in NICE DH Cup 2025 was memorable. Every match pushed us, taught us and brought our team closer. The tournament's energy was fantastic, and we're excited to return for the next edition of the DH Cup.
Manoj Kumar V, BEML

The NICE DH Cup 2025 was a superb football tournament. Engaging matches, skilled teams, competitive spirit - an unforgettable experience.
Arun Roy Patrick, BOSCH

Playing in NICE DH Cup 2025 was a terrific experience. The competition, sportsmanship and energy on the field were inspiring. Our team learnt a lot, bonded deeply and we're proud to be part of this vibrant tournament.
Roshan Savio Prabhu, Brigade Group

Winning the 2024 edition and returning as runner-up in 2025 has been an incredible journey. The team fought with heart, adapted and grew stronger. This year's tournament was competitive, spirited and truly memorable for Elfonze.
Noel S, Elfonze Technologies

We had an unforgettable NICE DH Cup 2025 run. Reaching the semi-finals as an independent club was a proud moment for us. The competition, energy and sportsmanship made the tournament truly special. We will be back stronger next year.
Clivert Martis, Fun@Work

Competing in the DH Cup since 2023 has been an incredible journey for us. Each edition has pushed us to grow stronger as a team. This year was no different - high-energy matches, great learning and unforgettable camaraderie.
Aswin C H, Genex Utility Management

Our first appearance in the DH Cup was truly rewarding. The team bonded, learnt and rose to every challenge with enthusiasm. The tournament's competitive, yet friendly, ambience made our debut special. We look forward to building on this momentum.
Satwashil Mane, ITC Infotech India

It was a wonderful sporting event. Sports helps us build ourselves both physically and mentally. On behalf of the team, I express our sincere appreciation for the opportunity to showcase our skills and experience a spirited and enthusiastic event. Let's keep the momentum going.
Sanjay Poonacha, John Distilleries

The NICE DH Cup 2025 was a fantastic experience. With a young squad, every match was meaningful learning. We won a couple, came close in others, and thoroughly enjoyed the tournament.
Somtirtha Singha Choudhury, Karle Infra

This was our first entry in the DH Cup. We had an energising experience. Every match tested our grit, teamwork and adaptability. The tournament's spirit made our debut memorable, and we're motivated to return even stronger next year.
Dennis Francis, OpenText

As first-time participants, we had an exciting debut at the NICE DH Cup 2025. The competition was intense, yet welcoming, and our players grew with every match. We are proud of the effort, teamwork and the spirit we brought to the tournament.
Akash Sudhakar, Smarsh Inc

NICE DH Cup 2025 was inspiring and gripping, with strong competition and remarkable sportsmanship, creating an atmosphere that pushed us to grow, perform better and appreciate the tournament's quality.
Cecil Garcia Simon, TVS Motor Co

NICE DH Cup 2025 was amazing. It was a fair, enjoyable and memorable tournament.
Shyju Antony, UST

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. VARIETY

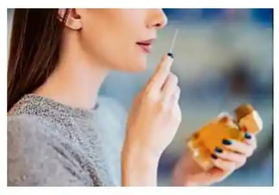
Through the winter months go for perfumes with heavier concentrations that will last longer

WINTER WISE

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

CHAI INSPIRED SPICE

Tea-inspired scents are trending globally, thanks to their cosy, nostalgic charm. Notes of cardamom, ginger, nutmeg and black tea recreate the warmth of a freshly-brewed cup. Paired with soft vanilla or milk, this fragrance family feels delicious without being overly sweet.



WHITE FLORALS

Winter turns white florals like jasmine into sophisticated evening fragrances when anchored with creamy sandalwood or amber. Instead of feeling summery, they become warm and velvety. These scents are perfect for those who want feminine elegance with winter depth. Think floral, but rich and more enveloping.

Winter Aroma

Seasonal fragrance

Winter is the season when fragrances feel richer, deeper and far more comforting. As temperatures drop, the skin holds scents longer, letting warm notes bloom beautifully. This year's winter scentscape is all about cosy sophistication, such as creamy vanillas, smoky woods, soft musks and spiced warmth.

VANILLA WOODS

Vanilla gets a grown-up upgrade in winter, moving far beyond sweetness into warm, woody sophistication. Combining with cedarwood or amber, it becomes creamy, cosy and modern, perfect for cold evenings when you want a soft but lingering aura. These scents sit close to the skin yet feel luxurious, making vanilla woods a winter staple.

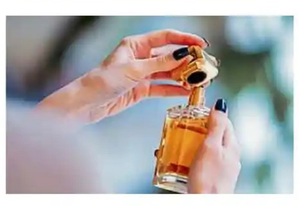
WARM MUSKS

Winter brings musk into its softest, most comforting form. Warm musks smell like a fragrance wrapped in a cashmere sweater, making it gentle, intimate and elegant. They blend beautifully with floral, fruity or woody bases, making them incredibly wearable. Ideal for people who enjoy understated fragrances, warm musks create a minimalist but magnetic winter signature.

Spiced ambers

A winter classic, amber takes on new character when layered with spices like cardamom, saffron, cinnamon or clove. The result is a glowing, resinous warmth that feels like sitting beside a candlelit fireplace. Spiced ambers are perfect for nights out, festive events or anytime you want a bold fragrance.

SMOKY WOODS



Smoky woods bring a mysterious, evening-ready intensity to winter fragrance wardrobes. Notes like oud, wood, and incense create a dark, smouldering trail that lasts beautifully in cold air. These scents are unapologetically bold and ideal for people who enjoy a luxe mood.

Storm in a coffee cup

Give your coffee a twist and make it work like you want it to. **Shilpi Madan** has the tricks

Coffee Break

Late nights during the year-end party season, work avalanche and early mornings are eating into your sleep? Blame those unending parties and adda sessions! A serve up of great coffee seizes the moment. Here are ways to rev up the life-saver for your daily fix!

Press it

Want a cup of coffee that tastes like the expensive brews at the coffee shops? Mix hot milk with a splash of water, and your quantity of coffee powder. Pour high from one cup to another, the Udupi way. Then add a dot of cold pressed coconut oil and swish into a fresh mug.

The inclusion does the trick and makes way for a smoother, hotter sip.

Salt on

If you have had noon chai, you know the twist a pinch of salt brings to the cup. Bring in the magic dot of salt to your brew, and watch it turn smoother, taste less bitter and slightly sweet. Adding salt to coffee has been a part of the coffee drinking ritual in Vietnam for years.

Brownie point

If you love having cold coffee, try this. When you blitz the ice, milk, sugar (or whichever substitute you like) in the mixie, pause before you continue. Add a dot of Bournvita to the concoction, and spin again, three times till the granules dissolve completely.

Here is a stunning cool sip in a tall glass.

Green call

Go green with intent to offset the calories you have been ingesting during the festive season. Green coffee, powered by chlorogenic acid - a compound believed to help in weight reduction, and boost metabolism – comes packed with antioxidants and is an eye-opener.

Sleepy mode

Conversely, if you want to take a power nap desperately in the afternoon to rid yourself of the niggling headache or annoying yawns, here is your fix. A touch of mushroom extracts to your pour creates a chill pill, literally. Shroom coffee makes you feel relaxed easily.

Just nail it

Shilpi Madan has some ideas that help you set your creativity free and make your fingertips talk this season

Nail Art

Pastels and pales are passe. Move over the boring, barely-there and de rigeur nails. Bold and burnished is in as you flaunt your talons this season. With the year cruising to a close, raise the toast with a swish of shiny nails.

Here's your guide on shifting gears from bright and light to metallic and moody this party season!

Go metallica

Magnetic cat-eye tips, shiny textures and champagne hues are in. From rose-tinged silvers and caramel toned golds, to winking chromes, let your nail tips do all the talking. Gleaming silver, soft golds, and blushing chromes sparkle and shine as you move, making them the perfect choice for the season.

French flair

The classic French manicure just got a makeover. The pure white tips have been elbowed aside by pearl flecks and rose golds for a zippy twist to your nails in a micro-French pop up. Flirt with blush pinks and classic colours to shine on.

Pop ups

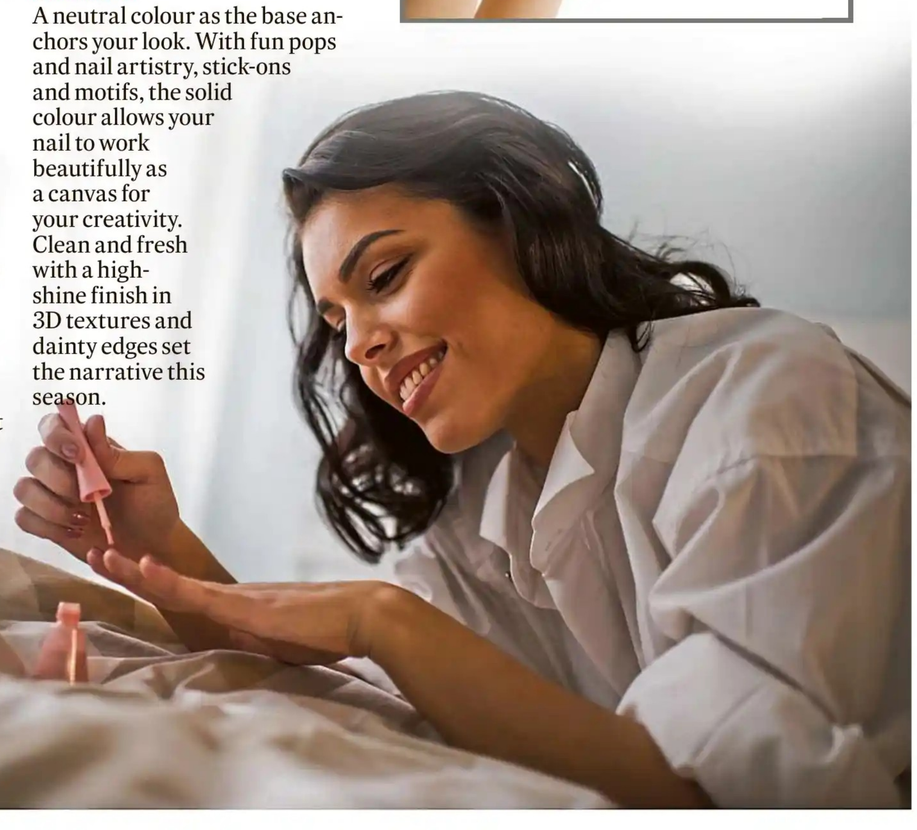
Go almond or oval in your nail shapes and let the blazing colours take over. From cheerful fuchsia to martini greens lined with gold tips, to brilliant cobalt and canary yellow, make your nails do all the talking as you team up or contrast with your outfit.

Anchor it

A neutral colour as the base anchors your look. With fun pops and nail artistry, stick-ons and motifs, the solid colour allows your nail to work beautifully as a canvas for your creativity. Clean and fresh with a high-shine finish in 3D textures and dainty edges set the narrative this season.

NAIL CARE

- Remember to buff and tip your nails every week
- A base coat and top coat are life-savers in guarding against chipped nail paint
- Adhere to a nutritionally sound diet. White spots on nails mark vitamin deficiencies
- Stay regular with a daring manicure every month



Training, awards for cab drivers

Trainer Dr Usha Mohan (right) presents a scholarship to Lishitha (centre), daughter of cab driver Muddurajaiah (left). She earned the scholarship from Omega for securing 97.4 per cent in SSLC.

Employee transportation company Omega held a comprehensive workshop on November 29, 2025 with demonstrations to educate cab drivers on discipline, punctuality, cleanliness, time management, traffic rules and professionalism. After the safety training programme Omega distributed a mobile phone holder for all attendees which helps in viewing a map while driving. Awards were also presented to 'best drivers'.

Omega also presented scholarship award for drivers' children and free tailoring machines to some of the drivers' families.

Headquartered in Bengaluru, Omega operates nationwide, providing comprehensive transportation solutions for corporates, daily employee transportation, car hire/rental, airport transfer, shuttle service, luxury car rental, application-based office commute and outstation cab service.

Website: www.omegacabs.in

VSH Hospital launches Department of Orofacial Rehabilitation

(Left to right) VSH Hospital's medical director Dr M N Vijai, radiologist Dr Satish Rao, physiotherapist Dr Madhulika Horatti, COO Dr D V Chalapathy, oral maxillo facial surgeon Dr Vinay V Kumar, general and gastrointestinal surgeon Dr Vijay Chandra, physician Dr Jayantilal, physician Dr Susheela Suresh, orthopaedic surgeon Dr A K Jeelani, emergency medicine consultant Dr Kalpajit Banik, and medical administrator Dr Humera Sayeeda, at the inauguration of the Department of Orofacial Rehabilitation.

VSH Hospital held a camp between December 1-6, 2025, at the hospital for persons with disabilities. Along with the camp, the Department of Orofacial Rehabilitation was inaugurated by VSH Hospital's CEO Dr Mahesh B Kottapalli, COO Dr D V Chalapathy and medical director Dr M N Vijai, in the presence of Dr Vinay V Kumar, oral maxillo facial surgeon and head of the new rehabilitation department; Dr Varun Manjunath, neurologist; Dr Nausheen Hussain, psychologist; Dr Madhulika Horatti, physiotherapist; and Akhila R N, speech therapist.

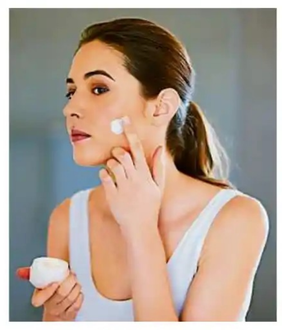
VSH is well-equipped and committed to treat all disabilities. At VSH, it is believed that true inclusion begins with awareness that disability is not a limitation but a part of human diversity.

Orofacial rehabilitation is a specialised field focused on restoring the function and appearance of the mouth, face and jaw for patients affected by cancer surgery, trauma, neurological disorders or congenital defects. It relies on a strong multidisciplinary approach involving maxillofacial surgeons, prosthodontists, dentists, speech-language pathologists and physiotherapist.

Interventions range from advanced implant-retained restorations to neuromuscular retraining for chewing and swallowing. With a complete interdisciplinary team now available at VSH, patients receive comprehensive care. Beyond physical repair, orofacial rehabilitation restores confidence, communication and social interaction - helping individuals reclaim their dignity and return to a meaningful, fulfilling life.

Skincare for the winter

Winter is the season when your skin needs more than a quick moisturiser - it needs nourishment. As the temperature drops, focus on products rich in ceramides, shea butter and oat extracts to strengthen your skin barrier.



Start with a warm shower, follow with a thick body cream while your skin is still damp, and seal dry areas with body oil. Exfoliate gently once a week to prevent dullness, and don't forget often-ignored spots like elbows, knees and ankles.

A mild fragrance mist layered over moisturised skin lasts longer, making your winter routine both functional and indulgent.

DH Saturday December 6, 2025
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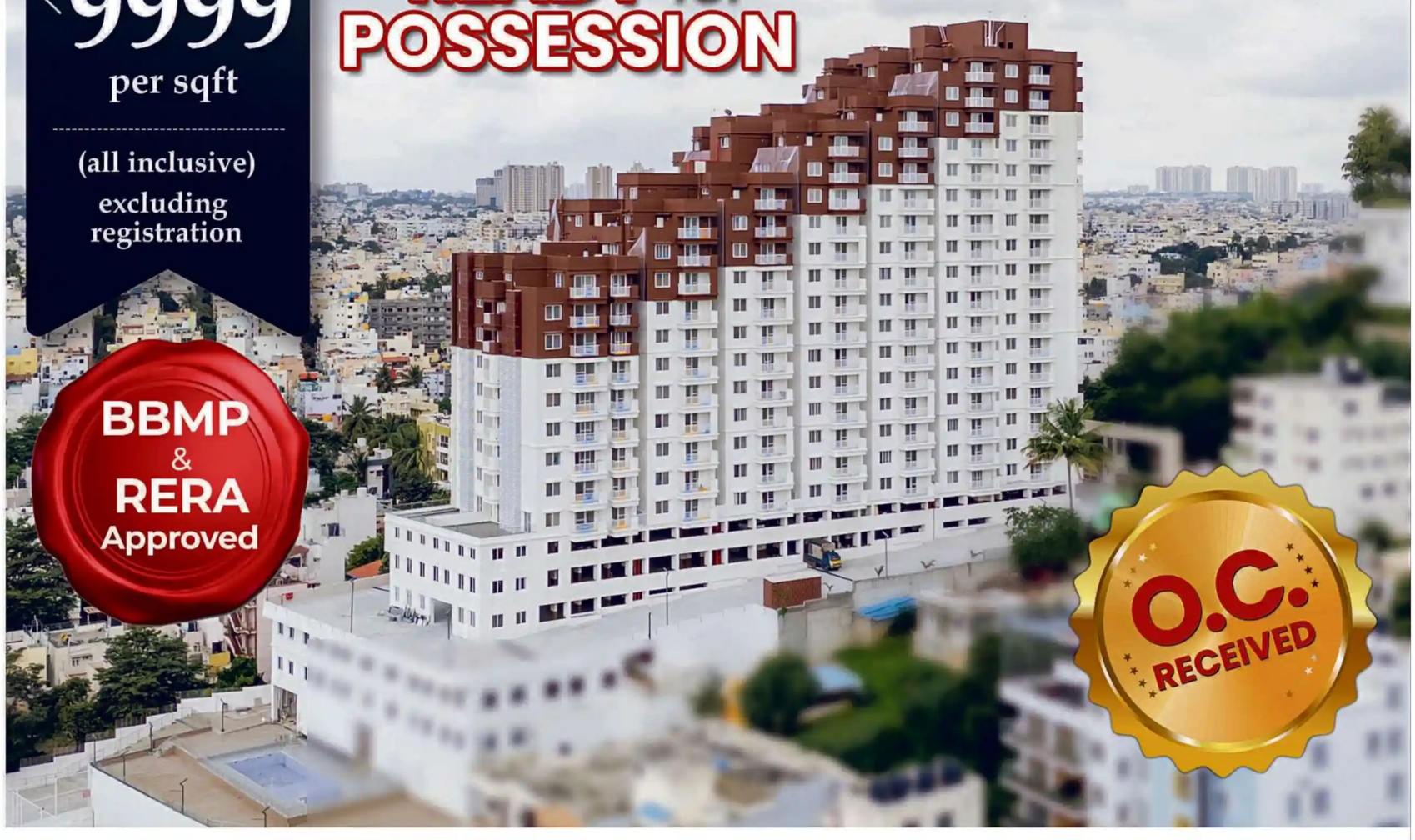

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- Big Bazar : 2.4 kms (Kamakya)
- Vidyapeeta Circle : 3.1 kms
- Chamarajpet : 5.1 kms
- Basavanagudi : 4.3 kms
- V.V. Puram : 6.0 kms

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ನಂ. 106, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, 40 ಅಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮಂಜುನಾಥನಗರ, ವೆಸ್ಟ್ ಆಫ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560010.

ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ವಿವಿಧ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಾಲಿನ್ಯ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಂಡಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಮೆ॥ ವಿಸ್ತಮ್ ಸೆಕ್ಯೂರಿಟಿ ಸರ್ವೀಸ್ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ನೇರ ಸಂದರ್ಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ವಿವರ	ಅರ್ಹತೆ (Qualification)	ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ
1.	ಹಾರ್ಡ್‌ವೇರ್ ಕನ್ಸಲ್ಟೆಂಟ್ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ)	ಬಿ.ಇ (ಐಟಿ)/ ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಾನಿಕ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಕಮ್ಯುನಿಕೇಷನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಡಿಪ್ಲೊಮಾ, ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಹಾರ್ಡ್‌ವೇರ್ ಮತ್ತು ನೆಟ್‌ವರ್ಕಿಂಗ್ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಪತ್ರದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 2 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅನುಭವ.	1
2.	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕೇತರ ಕನ್ಸಲ್ಟೆಂಟ್ಸ್ (Non-Technical)	1) ಯಾವುದೇ ಪದವಿ ಅಥವಾ ತತ್ಸಮಾನ ಅರ್ಹತೆ. 2) ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಪಿಯುಸಿ (12ನೇ) ಪಾಸ್, ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಜ್ಞಾನ ಹೊಂದಿರಬೇಕು.	1
3.	ಫೈರ್‌ಮ್ಯಾನ್ (ಟಿಕ್)	ಫೈರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಸೇಫ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಡಿಪ್ಲೊಮಾ ಅಥವಾ ತತ್ಸಮಾನ ಅರ್ಹತೆ.	1
4.	ಟ್ಯಾಲಿ ಕನ್ಸಲ್ಟೆಂಟ್	ಟ್ಯಾಲಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬಿ.ಕಾಂ (B.Com)	1
5.	ಪ್ರಾಜೆಕ್ಟ್ ಅಸಿಸ್ಟೆಂಟ್ (ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಹಾಯಕ)	ಕೆಮಿಕಲ್ / ಎನ್ವಿರಾನ್ಮೆಂಟಲ್ (ಪರಿಸರ) / ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿ.ಇ ಅಥವಾ ಎನ್ವಿರಾನ್ಮೆಂಟಲ್ ಸೈನ್ಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂ.ಎಸ್ಸಿ ಮೊದಲ ಶ್ರೇಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತೀರ್ಣರಾಗಿರಬೇಕು.	56
6.	ಸೈಂಟಿಫಿಕ್ ಅಸಿಸ್ಟೆಂಟ್ (ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕ)	ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಜ್ಞಾನದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್ಸಿ., ಕೆಮಿಸ್ಟ್ರಿ (B.Sc., Chemistry)	25
7.	ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್	ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಪಿಯುಸಿ (12ನೇ) ಪಾಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಇಂಗ್ಲೀಷ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನ್ನಡ ಟೈಪಿಂಗ್ (ಸೀನಿಯರ್) ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಜ್ಞಾನ.	54
8.	ರಿಸೆಪ್ಷನಿಸ್ಟ್ (ಸ್ವಾಗತಕಾರರು)	ದ್ವಿತೀಯ ಪಿಯುಸಿ (12ನೇ) ಪಾಸ್ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಜ್ಞಾನ.	1
9.	ಕ್ಲರ್ಕ್ (ಗುಮಾಸ್ತರು)	ಪಿಯುಸಿ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಅಗತ್ಯ	51
10.	ಫೀಲ್ಡ್ ಅಸಿಸ್ಟೆಂಟ್ (ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಸಹಾಯಕ)	ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಿಯುಸಿ / 12ನೇ ತರಗತಿ ಪಾಸ್.	48
11.	ಡ್ರೈವರ್ (ಚಾಲಕರು)	ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಎಲ್.ಸಿ (SSLC) ಪಾಸ್, ಮಾನ್ಯವಾದ ಡ್ರೈವಿಂಗ್ ಲೈಸನ್ಸ್ ಹೊಂದಿರಬೇಕು.	80
12.	ಪಿಯೋನ್ (ಜವಾನರು)	ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಎಲ್.ಸಿ ಪಾಸ್, ಕನ್ನಡ ಓದಲು ಮತ್ತು ಬರೆಯಲು ಬರುವುದು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ.	81
13.	ಭದ್ರತಾ ರಕ್ಷಕರು (Security Guards)	ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಎಲ್.ಸಿ ಉತ್ತೀರ್ಣರಾಗಿರಬೇಕು.	147
		ಒಟ್ಟು	547

ಆಯ್ಕೆಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯು ಸದರಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ, ಅನುಭವ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ನಿಯಮದ (ಎಸ್.ಸಿ–17%, ಎಸ್.ಟಿ–7%, ಒಬಿಸಿ–32%, ಜನರಲ್ ಮೆರಿಟ್ – 44%) ಪ್ರಕಾರ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತದೆ.

ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ನೇರ ಸಂದರ್ಶನಕ್ಕೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ 06.12.2025 ರಿಂದ 13.12.2025** ರ ಒಳಗೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವರಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ, ಅನುಭವ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ, ಜಾತಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಾದ : ಮೆ॥ ವಿಸ್ತಂ ಸೆಕ್ಯೂರಿಟಿ ಸರ್ವೀಸ್, ನಂ. 106, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, 40 ಅಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ವೆಸ್ಟ್ ಆಫ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560010 ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

ಅಪೂರ್ಣ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತಹ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ : ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 99452 30204, 90359 16688, 99452 422768.

Wanted

WANTED EXPERIENCED Dhobis for a laundry washing unit in Bannerghatta, Bangalore Salary : 18,000 to 25,000 Call: 9880266007 / 8050666007

Drivers

WANTED DRIVERS for Tata intra. Salary 18,000 to 22,000 + Food + Accomodation Timings: 10am to 9pm Sunday holiday Location: Bannerghatta, Bangalore Call 8050666007/ 9148899007

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Sites

Banashankari

BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE- BDA-AVAILABLE/ WANTED 20x30, 30x40 40x60, 50x80 SITES. BRINDAVAN ASSOCIATES- 9980863245/ 9945333993

AVAILABLE 30X40 North Facing Site Sale, 10th Block, 100 Feet Road Near, Contact: DEVARAJ 9993959099, 9799099699.

AVAILABLE 40X60 West Facing Site Sale, 10th Block, 40 Feet Road. Contact: DEVARAJ. 9993959099, 9799099699.

BANASHANKARI 6TH Stage 10th Block 40×60 North Facing 100ft Road Parallel Contact: 9738028011

SALE BSK 6th stage 4th B-block 40x60 west facing 2Cr also 40x60 south facing 6th block 2.10Cr, owners 9945373839, 9620041313

SALE BSK 6th stage 4th B block 40x60 west facing 2Cr also 40x60 south facing 6th block 2.10Cr, owners 9945373839, 9620041313

Domlur

40X61 WF SITE SALE Clear Title, Immediate Settlment Old Airport Road, KHB 1st Stage: 8310681025

Hosur Road

ANEPALYA BANGALORE Property, 3360 sq ft. next to CMP Centre off Hosur Road available for sale. Buyers call 9844349701

Hebbal

HEBBAL 30X35 House Sale, Ground 1 BHK, Two Carparking, 1st 2 BHK, 2nd 2 BHK 9845623970/ 9739400838

J P Nagar

4TH PHASE Dollers Colony 50X80 East Facing Excellent Location, Price 32000/- sft Settler: 9880225333/ 9845035333

Kempegowda Layout

SITE FOR SALE 40X60 East Facing BDA 40 feet Road

Very Good Location
Rs 8500/- Negotiable
Nada Prabhu Kempegowda Layout
Near Metro Station
Contact: 6366711598

NADAPRABHU KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT BDA SITES SELLING/ BUYING 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80. Genuine Buyers Call: 9632146784, 9731162167.

KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, Commercial/ Residential BDA Site for Sale 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 Contact Kumar 9945119449

Nagarabhavi

"NAGARBHAVI/ VISHVESHWARAIAH / KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT 30x40,40x60 OR ANY MEASUREMENT SITES REQUIRED`& AVAILABLE PREFERABLY OWNER/`ALLOTTE SITES. 9845268611"

Out-Station

PENUKONDA NEAR KIA Car-Factory, Madakasira Highway, 50X100 (4-SITES) Resi Converted, Gated Community, 400/- PSft: 8310681025

Vijayanagar

SITE FOR SALE: 60X90 WEST FACING WOC ROAD RPC LAYOUT ONLY GENUINE BUYERS: 6363250343/ 9845038343

Vishveshwariah Layout

BDA SITE SALE VISHWESHWARAIAH LAYOUT 6TH BLOCK 30X40 WEST NEAR OXFORD COLLEGE 40X60 NEAR KLE COLLEGE: 8892901567

DIRECT OWNER 30x40 E/F VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, Near 100 feet Road, Rs.9000/- Contact: 9742681666, 9886634578

BDA SITE 30X40 South Facing

Very Good Location
Rs 2 Cr. Negotiable
Visveswaraiah Layout
8th Block
Contact: 9611577666

BUYING/ SELLING 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 BDA Sites VISHWESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, Contact: 9035470616

'DIRECT OWNER' 20x30 N/F Vishveswaraiah Layout 2nd Block, Near Kommagatta, Full Developed Area: 8496030007/ 8310885235

Anjanapura

SALE BDA 30x40 Anjanapura 5th G-block south facing 40x60 west facing commercial site 2nd block. 9620041313, 9945373839

SALE BDA 30x40 Anjanapura 5th G-block south facing 40x60 west facing commercial site 2nd block, 9620041313, 9945373839

Intl Airport Road

EMBASSY SPRINGS 50X80, Jade Gardens 100X100, Century Eden 40X50, Hollywood Town 60X80, Supreme Estates 9632974714

Peenya

"PLOTS FOR SALE in`Peenya 2nd Stage, DC.Conversion, East facing Adjacent Sites. 2220`Sqft & 2260`Sqft, Rs.7000/- Per Sqft. Contact: 9353057779"

House

BTM Layout

HOUSE & Site For sale 30×40,40×60 East&North Facing For Sale BTM 2nd Stage.Rathnakar: 9945377119/ 9844099557

Hoskote

NEW 4BHK Fully Furnished, East`Facing Villa @ HOSKOTE, BMRDA, HPA Approved, 1.91 Crore.Nego, HAMSA 9886544124.

Jayanagar

JAYANAGARA 40X52 (2100sft) BDA Property For Sale Living Condition 4BHK Independent House Excellent Location Clear Title 9845341034

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JPNAGAR 5TH PHASE VINAYAKANAGARA OLD HOUSE (30'X40') SALE 2CRORE FETCHING RENTAL INCOME 1LAKH CALL:9448052264

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KUMARSWAMY LAYOUT Near Dayananda sagar college Prime Location 40x64 East/South Corner Commercial old House Sale Call:9845069739 9380613718

Multiple Locations

WANTED / AVAILABLE PG BUILDINGS For Sale in Bangalore

(60 Paisa to 1 Rupee) with Rental Income, Price Ranging From 5Cr to 10Cr.
Contact: 9900399006

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NAGARABHAVI RENT Independent Triplex 4BHK Luxurious House Lift. 4-Car-Parks Borewell Master Bedrooms 1.1 Lakhs: 9036207777

HOUSE G+3 Floors, 15x40 SF, Shanthaveri Gopalagowdanagara, Moodalapalya, Nagarabhavi, A Katha, 98 Lakh Direct Owner 9739957911

Vidyaranyapura

4-STORY HOUSE FOR SALE in Ramchandrapura, Jalahalli (Post) Bangalore 13. Size: 20X30. Built area 2700 Sqft: 1,75,00,000/- 9880450523.

Flat

Kanakapura Road

HIGH RENTAL INCOME PROPERTIES FOR SALE NEAR METRO STATIONS ON KANAKAPURA ROAD. SARAKKI HOMES: 9663676464

Nagarabhavi

FLATS FOR-SALE @ Nagarabhavi Chandra Layout 2 & 3BHK Ready to Move In Good Location Call:9538472420 9845066608

Rajajinagar

3 BHK Flat for Sale in 1st block Rajajinagar, W.O.C. near Metro Station. Call: 9980741316.

Farm House/ Land/ Resorts

Hosur

DOCTOR'S RESORT 0.67 acre, beautiful nature, next to Hosur highway, 90min from Bangalore enroute Hoggenekal falls. (3.6Cr): 9632921289

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Srirangapatna, Mysore
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18 Car Parking
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Large quantity of used construction materials in good conditions. Such as Shuttering Plate, Jacks, Spans, Cuplock scafolding & Machinery such as 1Bag, 2, 3&4 Bag Mixers, and Tractor Mounted 16 KVA D.G, Material hoist Electrical & Diesal 30 & 40 mts height, Cutting & Bar Bending Mechines (Electrical) for sale.
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Commercial Land

J P Nagar

SALE A.EAST South Corner 8766sft, B.East Facing 10,890sft C.4 side Road 21,780sft PLOTS on 80 feet Main Road Near RV Engineering College J.P.NAGAR 8TH PHASE, Uttarahalli Hobli, 'A' KATHA BETTERMENT CHARGE PAID, BDA NOC, DC Conversion 9986090000/ 7259316827

Commerical

Vijayanagar

450-SQFT COMMERCIAL Office Space Floor Wise For Sale Opposite to Vijayanagar Metro Station Contact: 7676900174 9945569909

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Accommodation Available

Commercial

AVAILABLE SITES in 100 Feet Road Banashankari 6th Stage 4th and 7th Block for Rent. Call 9880022644

FOR RENT/ SALE Fully Furnished Office Old Airport Road VDB TOUCHDOWN Next to HAL Museum 7447Sqft 96 Work Stations 5 Cabins 3 Meeting Room 1 Board 1 MD Cabin 6 Carparks. No PHONE CALLS WHATS APP MESSAGE ONLY TO: 9845031550

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RENT: 2BHK, Pooja Room, Semifurnished GIRINAGAR 1BHK Attached Ist Floor, Hanumanthnagar. Owner: Mobile: 78925-30410/ 94488-09902.

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Water Proofing

LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology- 9880916988

REAL ESTATE BUYING

Sites

Banashankari

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Vishveshwariah Layout

BUYING/ SELLING 20x30,30x40,40x60 50x80 BDA sites at VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, BSK 6th-stage. Contact: 9844533371/ 9341733480

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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **Somashekar M & Kavya N,** R/at No. 55, Boovanahalli Village, Doddasonne Post, Kasaba Hobali, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District-562110, have changed our minor Son's name from **SAMRAT S** to **DRUVIK S** vide affidavit dated 16-07-2025 before notary S.R. Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GEETHA BAI BANGALORE DEVI SINGH** W/o. Shivashankar Singh R/o. #229, Mediagrahara, Hesarghatta Main Road, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560097 have changed my Name to **GEETHA BAI D** vide affidavit Dated: 31.10.2025 Sworn before Notary Chandrakala, Bangalore.

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- Dedicated Walking Path
- Proper Marking & Numbering
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- Electricity Provided
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- Street Lights Installed

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- 5 Min – Gauribidanur Railway Station
- 15 Min – Gauribidanur Industrial Area
- 30-40 Min Drive from
  *Hindupur * Doddaballapur
  *Madhugiri *Devanahalli
- 1 Hour Drive from Yelahanka
- 68 km – Kempegowda International Airport
- Vidhurashwatha Temple – 15 Min
- Mother & Child General Hospital – 700 m
- Manasa Hospital – 5 Min
- Aruna Hospital – 7 Min
- Someshwara Hospital – 5 Min
- Gauribidanur Rural Police Station – 5 Min
- Vishal Mega Mart - 6 Min

Bank Loan Facility Available

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The Heart of Gauribidanur Growth Zone!

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- NH 69 (Madhugiri–Gauribidanur)
- Gauribidanur Bypass
- Gauribidanur RMC

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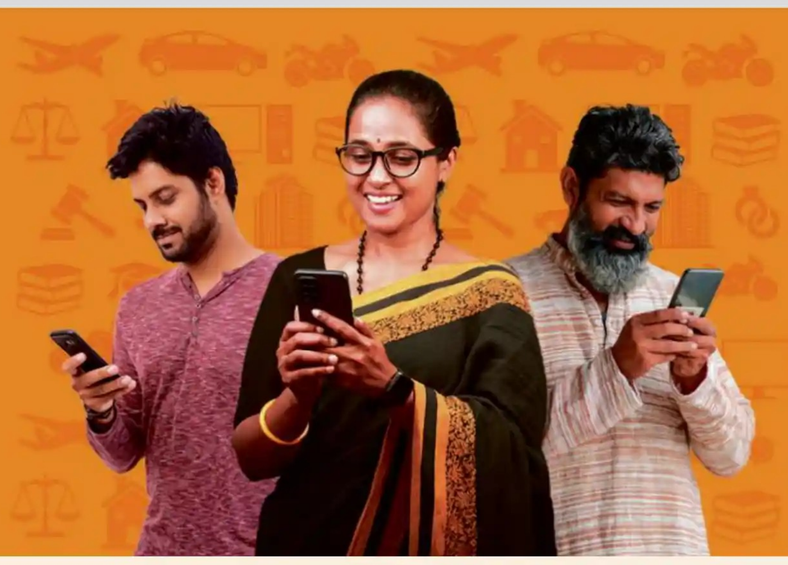

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